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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-232
Monday
3 December 1990

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-232 3 December 1990

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Palestinian Affairs

PLO Reacts to UN Resolution on Use of Force

Blames 'Treasonous' Arabs

JN3011183590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1656 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Tunis, 30 Nov (INA)—A ranking Palestinian official has said that treasonous Arab rulers, who rejected the principle of dialogue and Arab solution to the Arabian Gulf crisis, are responsible for the Security Council resolution legalizing aggression against Iraq. 'Abdallah Hurani, member of the PLO Executive Committee, asserted in a statement to an INA correspondent in Tunis today that the unjust Security Council resolution, which will only benefit the Zionist entity and the United States, will not protect the treasonous Arab rulers from the destructive and serious effects of the aggression.

Hurani said the resolution does not mirror the universal approach toward detente and peaceful resolution of problems; it returns the world to a heated atmosphere of war. He confirmed that Washington, which decided the form and level of the situation, will also decide how to implement the Security Council resolution, disregarding the will of the international community.

'Abdallah Hurani called on all those who are concerned about the capabilities of the Arab nation and who reject war to promote coordination and join efforts and stands immediately, before it is too late. He noted that the insufficient and uncoordinated efforts of the countries that stood against war and called for an Arab solution contributed to the declaration of war Washington has imposed on the Security Council.

Hurani called on Arab political and social forces and organizations to be aware of the serious dangers to the future of the entire Arab nation if Iraq's military and economic potential is hit. He appealed for immediate action by any means to make the United States and its unholy alliance understand that the price of aggression will cost them dearly.

The PLO Executive Committee member said that the popular Arab front must be expanded to put pressure on the Arab countries that are entangled in this aggression and to make them engage in dialogue to avoid a war that will bring destruction and pain to the region and the world.

Welcomes Bush Proposal, Condemns Resolution

NC0112082690 Paris AFP in English 0724 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Tunis, Dec 1 (AFP)—The Palestine Liberation Organization on Saturday called "a step in the right direction" U.S. President George Bush's offer to send his secretary of state to Baghdad to confer with President Saddam Husayn.

A communique issued by the PLO's executive committee praised "the American orientation toward negotiation and dialogue" and vowed to continue its efforts "toward an Arab solution with an international endorsement."

But the PLO also condemned the latest United Nations resolution on Iraq, which authorizes the use of force to expel Iraq from Kuwait, as "an American escalation toward war."

The resolution, the PLO said, "puts the international forum at the service of that country and its interests."

Issues Statement

LD0112185590 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Brothers, following the recent UN Security Council resolution which permits the use of force against Iraq, a PLO Executive Committee meeting on the morning of 30 November 1990 considered the dangerous watershed which the Gulf crisis has entered by the adoption of the UN Security Council resolution legitimizing aggression against Iraq and the shedding of Iraqi and Arab peoples' blood, and issued the following statements:

Condemning this resolution and considering it a transformation of the United Nations into a servant of the United States and its interests, the PLO refers to the repeated U.S. procrastination impeding the international resolutions put forward by the Nonaligned Movement member countries at the UN Security Council concerning the Palestine question and the dispatch of a UN mission to investigate the Israeli crimes against the unarmed Palestinian people and against the Islamic and Christian holy shrines in the occupied territories.

What proves the aggressive stance of the United States against our Palestinian people and against the peoples of our nation and its complete alignment with the Israeli aggression and expansionist policy is the fact that it brought forward the voting on the draft resolution on the Gulf crisis, which took the form of an ultimatum and a threat against Iraq, and kept away the day of world solidarity with the Palestinian people and the adoption of a resolution against the Israeli occupation and aggression on the Palestine question.

This U.S. stance constitutes a clear proof of the flagrant violation and the complete disregard of all the UN resolutions calling for solving the Palestine question. This stance also exposes the truth about the U.S. collusion with the Israeli occupation and its crimes and the double standards the U.S. Administration uses in dealing with the international causes for serving its own interests and against the will of the international community.

Furthermore, the PLO Executive Committee sees in this new resolution a premeditated U.S. escalation toward war and a strike against the opportunities for a peaceful solution and the efforts being exerted with a view to solving the Gulf crisis by peaceful means, away from the drums of war and the explosions which would destroy the region in its entirety.

This resolution ignores all the indications of readiness for dialogue and negotiation which have taken place and which are still continuing to contain the Arab solution which is the basic key for solving the crisis under the international umbrella.

Washington's imposition of the decision for war goes against all international and local efforts seeking the establishment of a new international order with no wars, seats of tension, oppression, and persecution. It is bringing the world back to the cold war climate and to hot war in our region after an agreement was reached recently at the Paris conference to abolish it.

The Executive Committee recalls the aggressive stands of the United States when it involved the U.S. people and the world in the Korean war and then in the Vietnam war. Today it repeats the same attitude in a region with the largest oil reserves in the world. War in this region, the world must realize, constitutes a major catastrophe to the Arab countries, their interests, pan-Arab security, and the future Arab system, and also an international economic catastrophe that will affect the entire world.

By imposing this decision upon the international community and legalizing aggression, Washington intended to share the responsibility of spilling Arab blood on the countries of the world. It also intends to involve these countries in a state of animosity with the Arab and Muslim countries, the countries of the region, and the neighboring areas.

It would have been better for the states which supported the U.S. decision to think deeply of the dangers of the catastrophic war. We are addressing ourselves, in particular, to the Arab states, the territories of which will serve as a theater for the coming military operations, to act speedily to defuse the destructive war out of their awareness of the catastrophic consequences of this war and the resulting disturbance in the regional balance of power. It will change the entire Arab system and will benefit only Israel with its expansionist dreams and all foreign powers with ambitions to control our region and its resources, and particularly the U.S. ambitions to control the oil resources to face up to the international economic developments in Europe, Japan, and elsewhere.

The rectification of this situation requires a speedy initiative from all Arab and international parties answering the call of reason to hold dialogue and negotiations with the Iraqi leadership. It is unreasonable for the international community to demand that the Palestinian people hold a dialogue with their Zionist enemies while rejecting dialogue between the Arabs and the sides in the Gulf crisis.

The PLO Executive Committee also realizes that it is still not too late for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Gulf states, and Iraq to start a fruitful and serious dialogue. This would form a key point to reach a political solution that would safeguard everybody's rights and interests and protect supreme pan-Arab interests. The dialogue would form a foundation for holding a comprehensive Arab summit to draft all elements and aspects of this solution under the international umbrella.

During this crucial phase, we appeal to all sisterly Arab states to rise to the level of pan-Arab responsibility, seize the opportunity before it is too late, and prevent a catastrophic war and destruction in our region, and spare the blood of our Arab, Islamic nation and everybody's blood.

[Signed] PLO Executive Committee, Tunis 30 November 1990.

Statement on Proposed U.S. Talks With Iraq

LD0112200190 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Brothers, within the framework of the developments which have followed UN Security Council Resolution 678, the PLO Executive Committee has made the following statement:

The PLO Executive Committee has followed the developments after yesterday's UN Security Council resolution, a resolution which it deems very serious as far as the region's and pan-Arab security is concerned.

The U.S. stance announced by President Bush today to open dialogue with Iraq is a step in the right direction toward a solution. The Executive Committee reaffirms the PLO's stance, as well as the stance taken by countries favoring an Arab solution since the outset, to the effect that the correct approach to the Middle East problem and the Gulf crisis will only be through dialogue and negotiation leading to a solution between Arab and international parties without beating the drums of war.

Therefore, while the PLO welcomes the U.S. inclination toward negotiation and dialogue, it stresses its determination to continue its efforts and orientation with all Arab and international parties to support the Arab solution—the principle key for action and a solution to the Gulf crisis and all of the region's crises, at the forefront of which is the Palestinian cause—with an international umbrella in order to safeguard everyone's rights and interests in such a way that will protect higher Arab interests.

The PLO hopes that the Arab nation and its leaders will take the initiative and move with speed to unite their stance and ranks, to consecrate their unity, and to impose and draw on their future, and to continue their dialogue. Everyone should, however, understand that the region's problems are firmly interlinked and interrelated. Therefore the Gulf crisis, the Palestinian problem, the Lebanese problem, the oil policy, and the protection of the vital interests of the international economy, with all their ramifications in the region, are the bases of security and stability in the Middle East, and have their implications on the international security and peace.

[Signed] The PLO Executive Committee, Tunis,

[Dated] 30 November 1990.

Algeria

President Plans Talks With Saddam, King Fahd

LD0312100990 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0954 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Algiers, 3 Dec, MAP—The Algerian newspaper AL-CHAAB attributed yesterday to Saudi sources—which were not confirmed by Riyadh—that the Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid was preparing for a mission of mediation in the Gulf within the coming days, which would lead him to Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

The Algerian newspaper AL-SALAM also talked about this mission in its 1 December edition.

AL-CHAAB, the official National Liberation Front newspaper, added that during the upcoming tour Mr. Bendjedid would hold talks with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud and President Saddam Husayn and that he would try again to persuade the Iraqi president to withdraw his forces from Kuwait in order to avoid a war which would primarily affect the Arab countries.

The newspaper's correspondent in Saudi Arabia said that Riyadh attached great hopes to the mission of the Algerian head of state.

Bush 'Trial' Ordered Transferred from Algiers

LD0212140690 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] The affair of the trial of U.S. policy in the Gulf has witnessed new developments. The preparatory committee for holding this popular court, composed of Algerian lawyers, announced that the trial will take place in the capital from 10 to 12 December, and current international personalities from the worlds of literature, ideology and politics will participate. This affair has witnessed new developments particularly since a communique was issued by the Interior Ministry. This communique said that such a move poses problems of security of persons and interferes with the march of our country's foreign policy.

Radio correspondent Rabah Chaibi held a dialogue with solicitor Mr. Bouyoucef, who is a member of the preparatory committee, on the reasons for transferring the trial to a Western capital.

[Begin recording] [Bouyoucef] In reality the idea of transferring the trial of Bush to a Western capital came after the decision adopted by the interior minister. The contents of which are a form of ban on the trial. Effectively, when we previously decided to put on trial President Bush and the U.S. policy in the Middle East and the Gulf, we announced our determination to hold it in Algiers. Faced with this indirect and surprising ban from the Interior Ministry, the preparatory committee for the trial decided to transfer it to a city outside Algeria.

[Chaibi] Mr. Bouyoucef, in the statement you made to the newspaper ECHAAB this morning, you said that there is a kind of despotism; what is this despotism, how was it, were there any pressures on you?

[Bouyoucef] The pressures are naturally indirect, there is some talk; however, the preparatory committee has not received direct pressures, but we consider that the communique issued by the Interior Ministry in itself constitutes a pressure because it is, even if indirectly, a ban on setting up such a court.

[Chaibi] Mr. Bouyoucef, you said that the trial will be transferred to a Western city, some sources have been talking about the city of Geneva. Is this true?

[Bouyoucef] This is possible, because there are proposals from the Swiss, and we are studying this suggestion now at the preparatory committee, and we have not decided whether to accept this proposal or not.

[Chaibi] Mr. Bouyoucet, please allow me to return to the affair of pressures and despotism which you talked about. In the statement you said that the Interior Ministry refused to let some personalities enter our national territory, who are these personalities?

[Bouyoucef] Without mentioning names, we first received [telephone] calls from personalities who told us visas had been refused, and we also learned that the Foreign Ministry gave the order not to grant visas to these personalities.

[Chaibi] Mr. Bouyoucef, the one thing certain up to now is the transfer of the trial from the capital Algiers to a Western capital.

[Bouyoucef] This is something certain and at the same time regrettable because it was our wish at the beginning, and it still is, to hold this trial in Algiers, with all what Algiers means, morale and revolutionary meaning.

[Chaibi] Mr. Bouyoucef, the Ministry of Interior's statement mentions that there are foreign hands behind this idea; is this true or not?

[Bouyoucef] This is not true, of course. However, this idea exists; we have heard from the outset of our initiative on holding the trial in Algiers that there were foreign hands behind such an idea. And to be precise, this meant Iraq. Of course the idea of a trial has existed for the past 3 months...

[Chaibi, interrupting] In Baghdad, of course.

[Bouyoucef] To hold it in Baghdad. However, the idea did not materialize in Baghdad. We, a number of Algerians, members of the civil society, took over and decided to hold it in Algiers, and why not in Algiers? In reality the idea of a peoples' trial initially emerged in Algiers. [end recording]

Egypt

Foreign Minister Comments on Bush Initiative

NC0112155090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 1 Dec (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, welcomed U.S. President George Bush's initiative to receive Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz in Washington and to send Secretary of State James Baker to Baghdad.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that this is a very legitimate attempt, especially as Iraq has called for dialogue. He added that President Bush has calculated accurately, noting that he put forth this initiative after the issuance of Security Council Resolution 678 on the Gulf crisis. He said: Dialogue is a legitimate means. We hope that it will succeed and that it will not be "a dialogue of the deaf" so that the region can be spared the ordeal of a destructive war.

These were some of Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid's comments during the first session of the fourth annual conference of the Political Studies and Research Center at Cairo University.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said: The Soviet Union was among the countries that adopted Resolution 678, and this is further proof that we are living in a changing world and that the Soviet Union of the nineties is different from previous years.

He stressed that Egypt's stand on the Gulf crisis is a principled one that is compatible with law, ethics, and interests and does not represent any bias against Iraq. He noted that Egypt supported Iraq in 1980 during its grueling war with Iran at a time when there were no diplomatic relations between Cairo and Baghdad.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid also stressed that the Egyptian stand on the Gulf crisis was spontaneous and correct, and that the other countries which have opposed or abstained from the condemnation of the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait should develop a stand. He added that the fact that a number of Arab countries have abstained from or opposed the resolution passed by the Arab foreign ministers on 3 August in Cairo has encouraged Saddam Husayn to persist in his stand and to create a schism in the Arab nation because of an invasion condemned by all. He said: Regardless of the excuse, Egypt believed aggression had been committed. The attempt to link this aggression to the Palestinian issue was a mistake because one cannot solve one problem by committing a second aggression. He added that the Palestinian problem cannot be solved by occupying Kuwait. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid stressed that Egypt is not competing with Iraq for the leadership of the Arab world.

Regarding Security Council Resolution 678, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that this resolution is the 11th in the series of resolutions issued on the Gulf crisis. He added that it was preceded by important and serious contacts, and its timing came during the United States' term as the Security Council chairman.

Dr. 'Abd-al Majid pointed out that the text of Resolution 678 did not include any mention of the use of armed force, but that it was implicitly understood from the interpretation of the second part of the resolution, which authorized the use of all necessary means to support the Security Council resolutions and which urged the various countries to lend the necessary support for the implementation of this resolution. He noted that the resolution did not refer to the use of armed force, but it came in the understanding that gives legitimacy to this move. [sentence as received] However, he added, the resolution does not shut the door on a peaceful settlement, which actually started before the Iraqi aggression of Kuwait. In this he referred to President Mubarak's efforts to avert a catastrophe and his tour of Iraq, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia on 24 July, when he succeeded in arranging a meeting between Kuwait's heir apparent Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah and 'Izzat Ibrahim, deputy chairman of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council. This meeting was held only hours before the invasion.

In response to a question on the guarantees for resolving the Palestinian issue after the Gulf crisis had been resolved, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid reiterated Egypt's commitment to and responsibility toward the Palestinian issue, which stems from common interests, pan-Arab security, and the principles, ethics, and sacrifices made since the beginning of the Palestinian issue. He added that there may be differences in opinion, which is natural and legitimate, but that the differences must not reach the point of accusations of "treason." Dr. 'Abd al-Majid repeated Egypt's refusal to link the Gulf crisis to a solution to the Palestinian issue, as proposed by President Saddam Husayn. He added that we will have the right, after the end of the Gulf crisis, to demand from the Security Council that the Palestinian issue be accorded the same treatment as the Kuwaiti issue and to demand the convening of an international conference which could provide the appropriate and best framework for resolving the Palestinian issue.

Concluding his statement, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid added that Israel fully understands that the world is changing, that the Palestinians have rights, and that sooner of later they will gain these rights.

Efforts Made To Make 'Peace Talks' Successful

JN0212203290 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Contacts between Egypt on the one hand and France, Germany, Libya, and the Kuwaiti Government on the other were held through diplomatic channels

today with the aim of discussing the necessary arrangements for making the expected Iraqi-U.S. peace talks a success.

It has been learned from sources at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry that Germany and France stressed during the contacts with Egypt that the Arab countries should coordinate among themselves to render these contacts a success. Direct Arab contacts with Iraq should be made before the U.S.-Iraqi meeting with a view to reaching an agreement on the peace arrangements that can be discussed with the U.S. Administration.

It was also learned that the Egyptian-Saudi contacts have underlined the principles on the basis of which Iraq accepted the U.S. proposals. [sentence as heard] These include an end to the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait without any conditions. It was also learned that international contacts with Egypt stressed the need for holding a meeting between the Iraqi president and the Saudi monarch before the Iraqi-U.S. talks. The Egyptian president also received a message from King Hassan II of Morocco. It was understood that the message deals with the possibility of formulating common Arab ideas concerning peace in the Gulf before the Iraqi-U.S. talks.

Commentary Cites Bush 'Political Shrewdness'

NC0212152990 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Bahiy-al-Din Shu'ayb commentary: "The Ball Is in Saddam Husayn's Court"]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush's initiative inviting Saddam Husayn to send Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz to Washington and to receive U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Baghdad has certainly been one of the main topics of conversation all over the world. Indeed, no one expected such an initiative from the U.S. Administration, as Saddam Husayn himself had repeatedly and urgently called for the very same thing and had sent mediators to convey this wish to the U.S. President.

As the initiative was unexpected, analysts went out of their way to examine it thoroughly. They studied it from every angle and discussed every single word. The U.S. President's initiative is undisputably clever. It reflects Bush's political shrewdness and his excellent ability to maneuver and comes in the nick of time. To understand the dimensions of this U.S. initiative fully, we first need to review the events leading up to the announcement. U.S. President George Bush declared his willingness to receive the Iraqi foreign minister and to send his secretary of state to Baghdad only after preparing the world political stage and ensuring that he held the right cards.

The first card Bush holds is the guarantee that the Soviet Union will support the United States in any move in connection with the Gulf crisis, including the use of force. He gave Moscow the freedom to approach Iraq several times. Soviet envoy Primakov met Saddam Husayn several times, visited a number of leading Arab states, and met with several European foreign ministers. After discussing the latest developments in the situation with Iraqi leaders, the Soviet Embassy in Baghdad issued a statement which said that the rigidness of the Iraqi stand had considerably disappointed the Soviets. The U.S. Administration gave Moscow ample opportunity to hold whatever dialogue it wished with Baghdad. After Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev had summoned Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, Moscow declared that Iraq will find itself in a very difficult position unless it withdraws from Kuwait and releases the foreign nationals.

The second card in Bush's hand is that he has won the support of all U.S. allies. The U.S. President has assured himself that all his allies, including France, which wanted to give the economic embargo the longest possible opportunity, are now convinced that Saddam Husayn has gone too far.

The third card was provided by the Arab states' unfavorable response to the call by Moroccan King Hassan II for an emergency Arab summit as a last chance to avert war in the Gulf and to work out an Arab settlement to contain the crisis. It was obvious that Arab states did not find any signs of flexibility in Saddam Husayn's terms for attending such a meeting that would pave the way for any meaningful summit. Iraq proposed first holding preliminary consultations among a number of Arab states to narrow differences and to prepare for a summit. It also demanded the withdrawal of foreign forces from the Gulf, so that the threat of the use of force would not hang over the summit.

The fourth card in Bush's hand is the agreement among the United States, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Syria on their approaches to the crisis. These approaches stress the need for Iraqi troops to be withdrawn from Kuwait, for the legitimate government to return so that it can shoulder its responsibilities, and for every available means to avoid the use of force against Iraq to be exhausted, at the same time that it is borne in mind that patience has its limits.

During Bush's tour of Arab states, U.S.-Syrian differences were narrowed to a considerable extent, because Damascus is an ally which carries weight in the Gulf crisis. This rapprochement was quickly reflected in the resumption [as heard] of U.S.-Syrian relations.

The fifth card is the latest UN Security Council resolution which warns Iraq that it must withdraw from Kuwait within 45 days. If Iraq does not withdraw by 15 January, the resolution authorizes the use of force to compel the Iraqi president to withdraw. This resolution reflects the international community's determination not to tolerate Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. All Saddam Husayn has to do is read the resolution thoroughly to realize that the entire world is determined to eliminate all consequences of the Iraqi occupation.

Only after these cards were in his hand did the U.S. President put forward his initiative for receiving the

Iraqi foreign minister and sending his secretary of state to Baghdad. Now that President Saddam has accepted the U.S. initiative, it is clear that it is the expected meetings in Baghdad and Washington that will determine the course of events in the Gulf. Saddam must either take a reasonable course and accept withdrawal or persist in his stubborness and regard the initiative as yet another opportunity for maneuvering. If the latter course prevails, this will mean that war is the only way out.

We would like to add here that the U.S. President's initiative is addressed to the American people as much as it is to Iraq. It sends a message to the American people that the United States is trying to open all the doors to peace in its efforts to avert war. However, it also tells the American people that if all these efforts fail to create any glimmer of hope, then war is the only alternative.

If Saddam refuses to listen to reason, he will drive all those who are opposed to war in the United States into supporting President George Bush. This is indeed the ultimate political shrewdness in Bush's initiative.

Iraqi Ex-Intelligence Official on Recruitment

NC0212165290 Cairo MENA in English 1614 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, Dec. 2 (MENA)—Former Iraqi intelligence official Husayn 'Ali Humaydah said that the Iraqi body recruits a number of Arabs.

Iraqi intelligence also recruited Iraqi nationals who were living abroad and returned home in the wake of the Iraq-Iran war, Humaydah added.

In a statement issued today by the National Committees for Iraq's Salvation, it said that the Iraqi national security institution has recently recruited some former employees in Eastern Europe intelligence in preparation for launching terrorist acts against the Iraqi opposition and Arab and foreign institutions.

Training new cadres are currently underway in a number of the Iraqi camps, particulary in "Hita" camp devoted for recruiting Arab volunteers, the statement added.

Jordan and Cyprus are considered in the forefront for Iraqi intelligence, the statement said.

Libyan Official Arrives for Talks With Sidqi

NC0212113190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 2 Dec (MENA)—Abu-Zayd 'Umar stated on his arrival that the Libyan delegation's visit is being made to formulate integration agreements and to implement what has been agreed upon by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. He said the delegation is bringing several projects to implement integration and promote bilateral cooperation for the good of the two peoples.

Answering a question about Libya's stand on the Gulf issue, he said that this stand has been proclaimed by Col. al-Qadhdhafi's initiative which rejects both occupation and foreign presence in the region. He noted that the initiative submitted specific solutions to resolve the two crises.

He asserted that the Libyan stand has not changed even after the announcement of U.S. President George Bush's initiative regarding the expected U.S.-Iraqi meeting.

Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi stated that the visit is an historic one and a major step toward attaining the supreme objective of cooperation and integration in all spheres.

Dr. Sidqi said: We have been waiting for this visit ever since the two leaders Mubarak and al-Qadhdhafi agreed on the projects to be implemented and in order to carry out their instructions for integration between the two countries in all spheres.

The prime minister added that the relations between the two countries are historic and distinctive despite previous obstacles. He said the restoration of these ties is not difficult because they are enshrined in the two peoples' hearts.

Dr. Sidqi added that at today's meeting there will be a discussion of the agenda. He explained that Libya has submitted numerous projects that cover all fields of cooperation on the way toward the major goal of integration and cooperation in various spheres.

He said that there will be cultural, trade, industrial, and research projects and noted that Libya has submitted nine draft agreements that have been discussed and will be further discussed with the Libyan prime minister. He said these agreements might need some further study and we will do that during this visit or at some other time.

Dr. Sidqi said that the agenda for the talks is open-ended with regard to all issues, including bilateral relations, the Arab situation, the situation in the Gulf, and the international situation. He added that the aim is to attain a common view of all these issues.

Assembly Votes Counted in 212 Constituencies

NC0112201890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Interior Minister Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa will hold a news conference at noon tomorrow to announce the final results of the new People's Assembly elections which were held the day before yesterday.

The operations room at the Interior Ministry is still awaiting the vote count from the seventh constituency in Tukh, al-Qalyubiyah Governorate. According to the latest reports on the election results, the ballots in 212 constituences have been counted. The only ballots that remain to be counted are those in the Tukh constituency, where the vote count is expected to be completed late tonight.

Candidates have won in 57 constituencies. Election reruns will be held on Thursday in 164 constituencies, with candidates in 68 constituencies competing for one parliamentary seat, and in 96 constituencies for two parliamentary seats. Indicators show that the voter turnout at the polling stations was approximately 45 percent of the total number of eligible voters.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1700 GMT on 1 December 90 carries a statement by Assistant Interior Minister Maj. Gen. Baha'-al-Din Ibrahim on the latest reports on the People's Assembly election results. In his statement he notes that "144 candidates from the National Democratic Party [NDP] have won, while 207 NDP candidates will compete in the election reruns on Thursday." He adds that in addition, "23 independent candidates have won, while 170 other independent candidates, including some who belong to the NDP but who ran as independents, will compete in the election reruns."

[He further notes that "Khalid Muhiy-al-Din, leader of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping [NPUG], is the only NPUG candidate who won in the first round, while two other NPUG candidates will enter the election reruns. No candidates from the Liberal, Misr al-Fatah, Democratic Unionist, Greens, and the Ummah parties have won. One candidate from the Liberal Party will compete in the election reruns." Maj. Gen. Ibrahim adds that "four independent candidates who belong to the Wafd Party have won in the elections' first round, while 16 others who belong to the same party will compete in the next round."]

Sudan

Al-Bashir Says No Armed Chadians in Country

E402121814901 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Dec (SUNA)—[Words indistinct] (Sudan) has been following the situation with great concern. His excellency said this today when he met the heads of the information media and the press [words indistinct]. Its only concern is that stability and peace prevail in Chad. He expressed the hope that the people of Chad [words indistinct] on a broad base representing all parties so that differences may not explode in fighting in the future.

In this connection Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir reiterated what he had said before: Sudan would not allow any armed Chadian presence inside its (?territory). Any Chadian who entered Sudan could only do so as a refugee [word indistinct] to the Sudanese authorities and must stay far away from the countries' common border.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir stressed that the National Salvation Revolution was committed to the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of others and similarly did not wish others to interfere in its internal affairs [words indistinct]. His excellency stressed that the Armed Forces in Darfur Region have been put "in a position to contain the problems of the region with the help of the other security organs (?there).

Radio on UN Security Council, 'Stupid America'

E402121806901 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Heroic Sudanese people: America has managed to make the UN Security Council speak to renege peace. Hence, it issued a resolution to declare war on Iraq with a stay of execution until the middle of next January. [Words indistinct] its members and their fall into the captivity of imperialism and the unification of their aims, while Cuba and Yemen rejected the resolution and China expressed reservations on it.

Now the Gulf crisis is entering a new era. It is being pushed by stupid America without knowing its [word indistinct] that it is the end of all of them and not the end of Iraq alone. The Council, which started actively pursuing Iraq, is the Security Council which closed its eyes to the destinies for four decades and plugged its ears from hearing the Arab voice. It is the Security Council on whose resolutions Israel reneged. It is the Security Council veto which nullifies all its authorizations. It is the one that is incapable of sending a delegation to convey a report from wounded Jerusalem, a report and not an investigation, not to mention questioning.

It is a council of Britain and of the Falklands and the arrogance of the English, and a council of France and its intervention in Chad's affairs militarily, and a council of the Soviets of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republics in Kirghizia, Turkmenia, and Tadzhikistan. It a council of America—Panama, Grenada, and Vietnam. A Muslim nation is in the realms of imagination.

Perhaps they became convinced that Iraq is the Arab who is repelling their ambitions. Hence [word indistinct] dealing him a blow that scattered his blood between the world and its nations and its Security Council.

America hastened and it came before it was permitted and before it was summoned by anybody because the summit in Cairo was held under the shadows of its hegemony. It installed itself as a world policeman, searching ships at sea and throwing their cargoes into its bed unjustly, whether it was food, medicine, or equipment. It brings its pirates aboard ships and they rob, while the so-called Security Council is in good health.

Then America forces it to this irresponsible resolution which wrecks the pillars of peace in the world because the war, O Security Council, is not a limited war as portrayed by America—which has not ever waged a successful war nor has it achieved a single military victory after World War II. Rather, it was kicked by Vietnam, [word indistinct] by Iran, expelled by [words indistinct], and challenged by Libya in the Gulf of Sirte.

It was only able to tackle its [word indistinct] weak neighbors, Panama and Grenada.

Here Iraq is rubbing America's arrogance in the sands of the Arab Peninsula and forcing it to call all its arms and its reserves. It is transporting the biggest military equipment ever witnessed. It has not managed to advance one step toward Iraq. Hence, it rallied and called on the international community for the war on Iraq. Legions of infidelity came from all directions, and small groups of Arab armies assembled in the mistaken confrontation alongside Israel, and they refused to fight. None of them were able to advance a step toward Iraq. Then America delays and returns to the security [word indistinct] the resolution.

It is the one that proceeded the Security Council in all that it embarked on. It is the one which contravened all that it approved of in the interest of the Arab cause. Perhaps the Security Council remembers the proceedings and does not forget the stands.

The eyes of the world are directed to the middle of January to see what stupid America will do. Will it strike at Iraq, or will it escape from striking at Iraq? Will it set up a security system in the Middle East that guarantees the safety of Israel and the safety of the flow of Arab oil and the stability of regimes that support and guarantee its military [words indistinct] of the Arabs and Muslims?

The military equipment with which America is equipped will not be a decisive criterion in (?deciding) [word indistinct] and the Arab army [words indistinct] from the (?name) of equipment. Rather, it holds bacterial, chemical, and nuclear weapons. It is pushed by belief in sacrifice, and it is pushed by dignity, and it is supported by experiments and acclimatization. It is [word indistinct] the pampered army of America.

The worst thing that infuriates America is [word indistinct] Iraq and [word indistinct] operations [words indistinct]. Perhaps the middle of January will afford to Western imperialism a new lesson from which it will benefit—the day when the desert will be filled with [word indistinct] stumps of date palms and thousands of caskets will be sent to America as a lesson and for consideration [words indistinct]. America will not guarantee the guns in the Arab hands to [word indistinct] from them the aims of the policy as Ayman Hasan [as heard] and his brothers did before. It will not guarantee the continuation of the stooge regimes.

Nor will it work for itself and its interests [words indistinct] in the vastness of the Arab and Islamic land while its peoples are alive. America knows this, but it is terrorizing with the decision of war, a terror that will be useless. It will find surprises awaiting it, a tornado from the waves of fury just like the one that stopped its abortive maneuvers and [word indistinct] the sweat of the troops and the loss of equipment. It will find whirlpools of wind that ships will not want [words indistinct].

The potentials of Islam and Arabism should not be in the hands of the West and its supporters. People must rescue their pawned holy places and their captive honor. Long live the nation of Islam and Arabism while protecting its condition. Shame and loss to the arrogant ones. God is great and honor to Sudan.

Al-Bashir Welcomes Bush Invitation to Saddam

EA0112214290 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and prime minister, has (?expressed) his welcome for the new development in the policy of the U.S. Administration in Washington. He said President George Bush's invitation to Iraq to negotiate through the countries' foreign ministers was a step in the right direction, and it [word indistinct] with Sudan's principled stand which calls for negotiations between the concerned parties in the Gulf crisis [words indistinct] to find a peaceful solution (?among) the parties in conflict in the region.

Bahrain

Prime Minister Welcomes Bush Initiative

JN0212160790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Manama, 2 Dec (WAKH)—The State of Bahrain has welcomed U.S. President George Bush's initiative to hold a dialogue with Iraq as the last means of settling the Gulf crisis peacefully and to prevent the catastrophes of a devastating war from occurring in the region and the whole world.

Chairing an ordinary session of the Bahraini Council of Ministers today, Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah expressed hope that Iraq will respond to peace calls and avert its people and country the perils of a military confrontation.

His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah praised the recent UN Security Council resolution calling for the use of all means to implement its previous resolutions calling for the Iraqi forces' complete withdrawal from Kuwait and the reinstitution of its legitimate government with 15 January as a deadline. [passage omitted]

Defense Chief Meets With U.S. Naval Commander

JN0212114490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1148 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Manama, 28 Nov (WAKH)—Staff Major General Khalifah Ibn-Ahmad Al Khalifah, defense minister and deputy commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force, met this afternoon with Admiral Stanley Arthur, commander of the U.S. Naval Forces in the Middle East. During the meeting, they reviewed bilateral relations, current developments in the region, and issues of mutual concern.

The meeting was attended by Staff Brigadier General Shaykh 'Abdallah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, chief of staff of the Bahraini Defense Force; Admiral Henry Mouse [name as received], former commander of U.S. forces in the Gulf; Charles Hostler, U.S. ambassador to Bahrain; and Staff Colonel Shaykh Ahmad Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, assistant chief of staff for reconnaissance and security.

Amir's Statement on Palestinian Solidarity Day

JN3011115190 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Manama, Nov 29 (GNA)—H.H. [His Highness] the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah has said that marking the international day for solidarity with the Palestinian people annually of 29th November is in itself a recognition by the U.N. of the importance of the Palestinian question and the support it deservedly needs by the international community.

In a statement marking the occasion, H.H. the amir said that this over 40 year old tragic question has troubled the conscience of humanity and left a painful wound in the heart of the international community, which rejects occupation, arbitrary detention, torture, seizure of private and public property and disregard for human rights as is the case in the Israeli occupied Palestine.

H.H. the amir added that the Palestinian struggle for freedom and independence deserved the full support of the international community. He underlined the intensity of the three year old Palestinian uprising which erupted on 8th December 1987, and the evermounting casualties among unarmed Palestinians, including children and women, as a proof of their courage and determination [to] liberate their land and regain their right to self determination and sovereignty.

H.H. the amir said that Bahrain recognized the Palestinian state when it was declared on 15th November 1988 and reiterated Bahrain's full support to the Palestnian people and their just struggle and to a Middle East international conference for a just peace and stability in the Middle East region.

H.H. the amir concluded by expressing his sincere thanks to the chairman and members of the U.N. Committee for the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, for their dedication and efforts.

Kuwait

Crown Prince Says Bush Initiative Farsighted

LD0212220790 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1902 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Report on news conference in al-Ta'if by Crown Prince Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah on 1 December, including recorded remarks by crown prince; from the "State of Kuwait" program]

[Excerpts] His Highness Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah has described the initiative of President George Bush as characterized with wisdom, far-sightedness, and also with audacity. At an international news conference held yesterday evening in his residence in al-Ta'if. In the presence of scores of journalists, and radio and television network correspondents, his highness said that when the representatives of states spoke at the Security Council and issued the historic resolution No. 678, they did not speak on behalf of their respective states only, but also on behalf of the whole world; this resolution is considered as the last chance before Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

Here is, dear viewers, part of this news conference:

[video shows crown prince sitting at a table addressing an audience of newsmen]

[Al-Sabah] You must also have followed continuously and heard by your own means about the sufferings of my brothers inside Kuwait as a result of the cruel Iraqi occupation. These invading forces killed some Kuwaiti youths and

arrested many. They have also plundered and stolen all the equipment and apparatus in ministries, government institutions, faculties, and scientific institutes.

Naturally, many of my brother citizens have seen their homes, shops, and depots. The Iraqi forces have plundered a lot of their goods and private property.

On this occasion, I record for many of my brothers and compatriots inside Kuwait a great deal of appreciation and pride in their stand, characterized with steadfastness, audacity, and courage in facing up to the invading Iraqi forces. [passage omitted]

Despite all the attempts and efforts made by the Arab and Islamic states, Saddam has failed to respond and fulfill these resolutions. Naturally, you all know that the problem is now with the Security Council, which has adopted several resolutions. One of the most prominent of these resolutions is resolution No. 660. Also, you have all followed resolution No. 678, issued by the Security Council in the afternoon of Thursday, the resolution that has given Saddam the opportunity to carry out all the resolutions taken in the last few weeks. This resolution contains a clear limit concerning the need for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces. The Iraqi authorities have been given an opportunity [to withdraw] up to 15 January 1991.

The opportunity is now before Saddam who should respond to this resolution adopted by this international organization. In the event of him showing insistence, obduracy, obstinacy, or lack of response to the international call, he alone will bear the full consequences, because he would be facing the world.

At this meeting, I would like to mention the speech of President Bush with regard to giving Saddam a last chance. This initiative of President Bush was characterized with wisdom, depth, and far-sightedness. We welcome this initiative, and we wish President Bush success in his efforts and attempts. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] After the latest Security Council resolution, and the initiative of the American President regarding the last chance given to Saddam Husayn and his regime, what do you expect to happen before 15 January?

[Al-Sabah] Clearly now the Security Council has made this decision, and the chance is now in front of the head of the Iraqi regime. If he wants to spare his country and people the horrors of war, and spare this region the consequences of destruction in Iraq and other areas, then he alone must respond and implement all the resolutions of the Security Council. As I said before, I say it again: there is now a chance in front of the head of the Iraqi regime.

[Correspondent] [words indistinct] stressed in front of you, on behalf of the custodian of the two holy mosques [words indistinct].

[Al-Sabah] It pleases me very much on this occasion to put on record the appreciation and thanks of Kuwait—the amir, the government, and the people—to the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, its king, its government, and its people, for this position characterized by truth, courage, and lack of hesitation. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] How does His Highness Shaykh Sa'd view Kuwait after liberation?

[Al-Sabah] First we must work continuously for liberation. This is our prime target. I look to Kuwait after liberation with a great deal of optimism, toward cooperation between my Kuwaiti brothers, and a great deal of cooperation between Kuwait and its neighbors in this vital region of the world. As citizens before being officials, we are living the days and hours, and we are suffering the ordeal of our brothers inside Kuwait in the form of oppression and maltreatment by the Iraqi forces. [passage omitted]

Further on Prince's Comments

LD3011213890 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1856 GMT 30 Nov 90

[From the "State of Kuwait Television Message"]

[Excerpts] The heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, has received a media delegation representing all the Algerian media organs. During the meeting his highness talked about the dimensions of the blatant Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. He explained in detail the developments which stemmed from this aggression.

In his reply to the delegation's questions, his highness explained the realities of the just stand of the State of Kuwait, which refutes the claims and allegations of the head of the Iraqi regime.

[Begin recording] [Al-Sabah] At this meeting I would like to express my appreciation for all your great interest in following up the Kuwaiti issue. [passage omitted]

Since the head of the Iraqi regime does not wish to implement the UN resolutions, the members of the UN Security Council commenced consultations to adopt a new resolution which would include the use of all means to secure the implementation of all the resolutions adopted during the past weeks. Probably the UN Security Council will start to discuss this resolution tomorrow, Thursday evening. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, I welcome you and I wish you success in conveying the truth to the Arab peoples everywhere so that everyone can see the dangers of the blatant Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. Thank you brothers and I reiterate my sincere wishes to you.

[Correspondent] Some Arab countries still believe in an Arab solution. What is your opinion in this?

[Al-Sabah] I do not know what some people mean when they talk about the Arab solution. There is a resolution. There is a resolution adopted by the Arab summit

conference. This resolution is clear and explicit. The resolution appealed to Saddam to withdraw his forces from Kuwaiti territories. So far this resolution has not been implemented. I do not know what is the idea of reopening the issue of the Arab solution. The solution is there, but it was rejected by the Iraqi side. As for what you hear of initiatives from here and there, their aim is to delay and evade and gain time.

[Correspondent] What do you think of the countries which support Iraq in its [word indistinct] of the Kuwaiti people?

[Al-Sabah] I wish that this question would be directed to the officials of these Arab countries which forgot the principles and paid attention to their own interests. The officials of those countries should stand alongside right against wrong; they should stand by the victim not the aggressor; and they should implement all the international treaties and not support the aggressor and encourage him in his aggression. I am sure that one day those who adopted such an aberrant stance will understand the scale of their mistake against the wishes of the sons of Kuwait. [end recording]

Prime Minister Welcomes UN Resolution on Iraq

LD3011202790 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1856 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] The heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, expressed Kuwait's welcome of UN Security Council Resolution 678 which allows the use of force in order to force the Iraqi regime to withdraw from Kuwait.

He said: By confirming the unity of the international community and its commitment to put an end to the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, the resolution constitutes a clear and firm message that we hope the head of the Iraqi regime will understand. We hope he will hasten to withdraw completely from all Kuwaiti territories. In this way he will spare his people and other peoples the grave consequences that will result from his continued defiance of international will and continued aggression against Kuwait.

Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah adds: I express my deep gratitude and appreciation to the countries that voted for this historic resolution by the UN Security Council and that it not try to obstruct it. The attitude of these countries stems from their wish to stand by right, justice, and peace; to combat injustice and aggression; and to put an end to the suffering of the Kuwaiti people and the citizens of other countries who are exposed every day to the most severe kinds of torture and persecution at the hands of the Iraqi occupation forces.

Amir Receives Phone Call From President Bush

LD0112030390 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0001 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 30 Nov (SPA)—His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir received a phone call from U.S. President George Bush this evening:

A source at the amiri court said: "The phone conversation was an opportunity to exchange viewpoints between the two leaders on the local and international development in light of the latest UN Security Council resolution". The Kuwaiti source described the telephone conversation as very friendly and asserted: "our viewpoints were completely identical".

Government Reportedly Seeks French Aircraft

JN0112093890 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 27 Nov 90 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that France is currently studying a request by the Kuwaiti Government to buy a number of F1 Mirage aircraft. Six of the aircraft are of the same type as those that Iraq had contracted to buy prior to the international economic embargo against it. A well-informed source in Paris informed AL-ITTIHAD that these aircraft are currently located at the French Dassault factory and are ready to be handed over once a decision over them is reached. The source added that Kuwait owned 24 such aircraft, 15 of which managed to leave Kuwait for Saudi Arabia following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and that the French Government repaired these aircraft in addition to about 22 Gazelle, Puma, and Super Puma helicopters.

Oman

Sultan Receives Invitation to GCC Summit

JN0212212090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1710 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Muscat, 2 Dec (WAKH)—Oman's Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id has received a written message from Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani inviting him to attend the 11th session of the higher council of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] scheduled in Doha on 22 December.

'Abd-al-Rahman Sa'd al-Dirham, Qatari minister of labor, social affairs, and housing, delivered the message when Sultan Qabus received him here today.

Envoy Sent to Saudi Arabia With Sultan Message

JN0312094390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1025 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Muscat, 2 Dec (WAKH)—Sayf Bin-Hamad Bin-Sa'ud, minister of the Omani Sultanate Court, left Muscat today for Jeddah on a short visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. During the visit, the Omani minister

will convey an oral message from Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques.

The OMANI NEWS AGENCY said that the message deals with bilateral relations, the continuing consultations among the Gulf Cooperation Council leaders, and the current developments in the Gulf region.

Qatar

Minister To Extend Invitations to GCC Summit

JN0112164190 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1138 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Doha, 28 Nov (WAKH)—'Abdallah Bin-Salih al-Mana', Qatari minister of transportation and communication, left Doha this morning as the envoy of Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani to Jeddah and al-Ta'if.

During his visit, the Qatari minister will extend an official invitation from his highness the Qatari amir to Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and to Kuwaiti Amir His Highness Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, to attend the 11th session of the higher council of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] which will be held in Doha on 22 December.

Al-Mana' will go to Manama tomorrow, Thursday, to extend a similiar official invitation from the Qatari amir to Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salaman Al Khalifah to attend the 11th session of the GCC higher council.

Amir Receives Letter From SFRY President

JN0212113790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1035 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Doha, 28 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani has received a letter from Borisav Jovic, SFRY president and current president of the Nonaligned Movement. The letter was conveyed by Branimir Pajkovic, SFRY minister of economic and international cooperation [title as received], who was received by his highness here today.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister; and Salih Dawud al-Muhannadi, secretary general of the Higher Planning Council.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY said that the letter deals with developments in the region, repercussions in the Gulf crisis resulting from the continued Iraqi occupation of the State of Kuwait, and the positions of the SFRY and the Nonaligned Movement, which have condemned the Iraqi aggression and committed themselves to the Security Council resolutions on the crisis.

During the meeting, they reviewed the situation in the region, the regional and international dimensions of the Gulf crisis, and ways to support friendly relations and cooperation between Qatar and the SFRY in various fields.

Foreign Minister Receives Baker Message on Talks

JN0212204190 Manama WAKH in English 1520 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Doha, Dec 2 (GNA)—Qatari Foreign minister, Mr. Mubarak Bin-'Ali al-Khatir has received a letter from the American Secretary of State James Baker dealing with latest developments in the Gulf region and the offer of the American President George Bush to invite the Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz to Washington and to send Mr. Baker to Baghdad for dialogue on the Gulf crisis.

The letter was given to Mr. al-Khatir today by the American Ambassador in Doha, Mr. Mark Hambley.

Air Transportation Agreement Signed With USSR

JN0212114090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1125 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Doha, 28 Nov (WAKH)—An air transportation agreement between Qatar and the Soviet Union was signed here today.

The agreement stipulates that the Gulf Air Company be designated as the national carrier for the State of Qatar and that Aeroflot, the Russian airline, be designated the national carrier for the Soviet Union.

The agreement gives each company the right to operate five weekly flights from and to the Soviet Union.

In accordance with this agreement, Gulf Air will have the right to transportation from the Soviet Union to Europe, while Aeroflot will have the right to transportation from and to Southeast Asia.

The Soviet airline will begin its flights to Doha next summer, while Gulf Air will begin flights to the Soviet Union as soon as it completes its fleet of planes and after conducting the necessary economic studies.

This agreement was signed after three days of talks between civil aviation officials from the two countries.

Saudi Arabia

King Reportedly To 'Wipe Out' Egyptian Debt

LD3011221890 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] An authoritative source has stated the following to SPA:

The custodian of the the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, has issued instructions that the debts incurred by the Arab Republic of Egypt to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia be wiped out.

The source added that during the third meeting of the joint Saudi-Egyptian committee in Cairo, the Saudi side will implement these instructions in accordance with the blessed royal directives.

King Fahd Receives Calls From Bush, Mubarak

LD3011185190 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-Aziz Al Sa'ud, received a telephone call today from His Excellency President George Bush, U.S. President. During this call developments in the Arab Gulf region and matters of common interest were discussed.

The custodian of the two holy mosques, may God support him, has also received a telephone call from his brother His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt. The call falls within the context of the continuing consultations between the two leaders on developments at the Arab region level, on all that serves the causes of the Arab and Islamic nations.

King Fahd Telephones Amir of Kuwait

LD3011185290 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holv mosques, this evening telephoned his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait. During the call, views were exchanged on topical events at the level of the Arabian Gulf region in the light of current developments.

No Contradiction Reportedly Seen in U.S. Effort

LD0212152190 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] A responsible source made a statement to SPA today which said: The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia sees no contradiction between what was announced by His Excellency President George Bush on sending the U.S. secretary of state to Baghdad and receiving the Iraqi foreign minister in Washington, and the resolutions of the latest Arab summit in Cairo, those of the Islamic Conference Organization, and those of the UN Security Council—as they all call for the complete and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from the fraternal State of Kuwait; the return of legitimacy to Kuwait under the leadership of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad-al Sabah; the release of foreign hostages; and the return of security and stability to the region with the elimination of the Iraqi military build-up and threats against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Gulf states, and the whole region.

The source added: These fundamental principles are completely compatible with what was previously announced by the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, considering that they are the firm basis through which peace, stability, and progress can be achieved for all states and peoples and given that they achieve and affirm commitment to the principles of rightness, justice, and legitimacy.

The source added: A few days ago the custodian of the two holy mosques addressed the citizens and said: We do not object to President Saddam Husayn jumping the obstacles and hastening to withdraw completely from the Kuwait territories, because this would have a good effect on all countries of the world. We are looking forward to President Saddam taking this step, because it is the most ideal solution to ending the Gulf crisis.

The source added: As President Bush's initiative stresses commitment to the aforementioned constants, which were agreed to by all Arab, Islamic, and international communities, Saudi Arabia expresses its satisfaction with President Bush's announcement as a positive step if, as his excellency said, a peaceful solution is to be achieved for this grave crisis within the context of Arab, Islamic, and international resolutions and with no preconditions.

The course concluded his statement by saying: It is well known that all the leaders of the countries that sent their forces—thanks be to them—to Saudi Arabia at the request of the Kingdom, to support its Armed Forces in defending Saudi Arabia and its vital interests, have repeatedly announced that their forces would leave Saudi Arabia upon concluding their mission, when they are asked to leave, and that not a single soldier will remain on Saudi territory after that.

Paper Calls UN Resolution 'Last Ultimatum'

JN0212170890 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 30 Nov 90 p 1

[Editorial: "The Significance and Meanings of the Resolution"]

[Text] The international community's resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq after the last ultimatum addressed to it expires is highly significant.

This ultimatum is a strongly-worded warning addressed to the reckless Iraqi regime, which has failed to heed peace bids and to acquiesce to UN resolutions and international legitimacy.

Furthermore, this international resolution, which was overwhelmingly passed, gives the ruling junta in Baghdad a last chance—not for survival or for maintaining contact with other parties through diplomatic means—but rather for protecting the lives of the Iraqi people, who have been used by this junta to realize its ambitions.

A wave of hitherto suppressed popular indignation has begun to make itself felt within the ranks of these poor

people, who have been the victims of torture, oppression, and terrorism at the hands of this junta and at the orders of arch-terrorist Saddam Husayn.

The resolution by itself is not a form of political verbiage. It is a powerful instrument whose forcefulness and effectiveness far exceeds all economic measures and pressures brought to bear thus far on this reckless regime within the framework of the international community's systematic efforts to gradually tighten the noose around the necks of Saddam and his clique.

The blockade has caused severe economic suffering, which is being expressed by waves of indignation throughout the ranks of the Iraqi people. However, these sufferings have failed to move the cruel hearts of the ruling junta, which is no longer affected by the sufferings and problems of its people. Furthermore, this clique has been robbed of all humane sentiments, all feelings of Arab brotherhood, and all good-neighborliness while it perpetrates the ugliest forms of terrorism against the sons of the fraternal Kuwaiti people.

Hence, the resolution is a sword brandished over the necks of Saddam and his corrupt clique. If this clique were to fail to yield to international legitimacy, to withdraw from Kuwait unconditionally, to allow the restoration of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government, and to release hostages, the Iraqi people will then shake up the earth from under the feet of this despotic clique, rid themselves of its crimes and terrorism, and spare themselves the dangerous consequences of this international resolution. We believe that the Iraqi people adequately recognize the dangers posed by this; and the evidence that we advance to corroborate this argument of ours is that a sweeping popular indignation is currently engulfing Iraq.

Saddam and his henchmen are attempting to blind the people to the impending horrendous catastrophe at a time when he and his clique have made arrangements for their escape when the hour of danger approaches. It is hoped that the Iraqi people will be aware of this fact and will use the ultimatum granted by the international community to liquidate Saddam Husayn and his clique before they flee and leave Iraq and its people to destruction.

Refinery Fire Blamed on Leak of Combustibles

LD3011212090 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1558 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Riyadh, 30 Nov (SPA)—A responsible source at the Saudi Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources told SPA today that a fire broke out at 1110 this morning in the installations of one of the plants in Ras Tannurah after a leak of some combustible substances. The refinery's fire brigade put out the flames.

The source also indicated that three workers who were trying to put out the flames were injured. They have been taken to the hospital. One of the injured has been discharged from the hospital and the other two are still receiving treatment, the source added.

United Arab Emirates

President Receives Invitation to GCC Summit

JN0112165390 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has received a written message from his brother His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, the amir of sisterly Qatar, inviting his highness the president to attend the 11th summit of the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] slated for 22 December in Doha.

The message was delivered to his highness the president by His Excellency 'Abd-al-Rahman Sa'd al-Dirham, minister of labor, social affairs, and housing of Qatar, when his highness received him this morning.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, deputy prime minister; His Highness Surur Bin-Muhammad Al Nuhayyan, head of the Presidential Court; Shaykh Ahmad Bin-Hamid [no title given]; His Excellency Sayf al-Jarwan, minister of labor and social affairs; His Excellency Khamis Bati al-Rumaythi, head of the President's Office; and Muhammad 'Ali al-Qattani, acting Qatari charge d'affaires in the UAE.

Minister Sees Bush's Invitation as 'Last Chance'

JN0112192690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1815 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Al-'Ayn, 1 Dec (WAKH)—Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, minister of state for foreign affairs, met in the city of al-'Ayn this evening with Edward S. Walker, U.S. ambassador to the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

The U.S. ambassador briefed Shaykh Hamdan on the background to the invitation extended by President George Bush to the Iraqi foreign minister to visit Washington, and also his intention to send Secretary of State James Baker to Baghdad to meet with Iraqi officials.

Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan said the UAE welcomes this initiative which is based on the UN Security Council resolutions concerning the Gulf crisis, beginning with Resolution 660 and ending with Resolution 678. He said the President's initiative is the last chance in the efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis that is based on the will of the international community.

Paper Calls for Discussing New 'Security System'

JN0312092390 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 30 Nov 90 p 1

[Editorial: "A Call for Discussion"]

[Text] This crisis will end sooner or later, peacefully or through war, with losses confined to the direct results of the aggression, or with unlimited heavy losses if the Iraqi leadership continues its intransigence until the time limit set by the UN Security Council expires. In all cases, the crisis will inevitably end, Kuwait will be liberated, and the legitimate government will resume its natural position in its homeland. However, there are many things that cannot, at all, return to what they were before 2 August. At the top of the list of these is our security strategy.

It is indisputable that the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, in its form and results, has exposed a serious breach in the bases on which all our security concepts were founded until the time of the aggression. One never imagined that the danger threatening our security could have come from within the Arab bloc, and not from outside.

We should now begin discussion of new concepts with respect to our security system in light of the new situation created by the crisis in order to prevent the recurrence of such a crisis on the one hand, and to avoid being surprised by plans proposed to us by foreign forces that, naturally, give priority to their direct interests, on the other. It would be useful for us to determine the basic framework of our new security system, whether it should be a Gulf or an Arab system, a Gulf system that could be joined by non-Arab forces, or a complementary part within an expanded system of Arab security.

In light of what has been exposed by the aggression, would it be sufficient that this new security system be based on pledges and charters, which experience has proven can be torn up at any moment? Or is it necessary to establish a force capable of imposing charters on any party that tries to violate them? If so, then what is the form of this force and its size? What are the conditions for its formation, presence, and use?

All these are ideas for open discussion with only one consideration in mind, namely the right of the homeland and the citizen to sovereignty, freedom, and a better and more secure and stable life.

Yemen

Council Member Welcomes U.S.-Iraqi Negotiations

JN0212132690 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Presidential Council vice chairman, today received Brother 'Abd-al-Husayn al-Rafi'i, Iraq's ambassador in Sanaa. The latest developments in the region were reviewed during the meeting.

The brother vice chairman said our country welcomes the U.S. call for direct negotiations with Iraq and Iraq's positive response to that call. He said this (?constitutes) a good chance and a correct, positive step in the direction of achieving the desired peace in the region—something that our country has called for out of its concern for security, stability, and peace and sparing the region the catastrophe of war.

Saddam Estimates 50-50 Chance for War

LD0212201990 Paris Antenne 2 Television in French 1800 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Interview with President Saddam Husayn by correspondents Christine Ockrent and Ivan Levaille in Baghdad on 1 December; Husayn speaks in Arabic with French translation superimposed—recorded]

[Text] [Levaille] Mr. President, you have accepted the dialogue proposed to you by President Bush: Do you also accept the framework around it? That is, the objectives of the United Nations—a complete withdrawal from Kuwait, the restoration of the regime, and the release of all the hostages?

[Saddam] This afternoon there was a clear albeit concise communique issued by the Revolutionary Council. We clearly defined our position concerning the statement by the American President. If what the American wishes is to establish a dialogue, we, as we have said, wish to have this dialogue between the human communities, the states within our countries, or between one state and another. If President Bush wishes to establish a balanced dialogue, such a dialogue must not begin on the basis of preconditions.

[Levaille] Not even a framework where the objectives are once again those of the United Nations?

[Sa'dam] The objectives of the United Nations: You know how these have been defined and settled. One must only follow the course of things since August last: when one sees how the American forces disembarked onto the sacred land of the Muslims, when one makes comparisons between the American contingents and the contingents of the various other nationalities, when one follows the action of Bush, Baker, and Cheney, and the different agreements concluded on the international arena, one may wonder whether it is really a question of the objectives of the United Nations or those of the United States. France is one of the five permanent members of the Security Council, isn't it? Have your president, your minister of foreign affairs, your minister of defense had the same attitude as the Americans? Have they concluded as many economic agreements as the Americans? Why were your forces so late in deploying themselves in the Gulf?

[Levaille] Why do you think?

[Saddam] Because France does not have preliminary objectives [objectifs prealables] like the United States.

[Levaille] Mr. President, President Mitterrand and President Bush have expressed the same principles: withdrawal, Iraqi evacuation from Kuwait. This is an observation. My question is: You wanted to see President Bush and negotiate directly with him; do you agree to receive Mr. Baker in Baghdad and thus to change the level beyond the negotiations?

[Saddam] President Bush has proposed two meetings, one of which would be held in Washington, at which our foreign minister would meet him, and a visit by Mr. Baker to meet us. We have agreed.

[Levaille] So there will be a dialogue, since your minister is going to Washington. The last United Nations resolution sets a timetable, and the ultimatum runs out in 45 days. In your opinion, does this mean that this dialogue has 45 days to come to a conclusion, or do you consider this ultimatum already invalid?

[Saddam] Those who made these decisions are the ones who know, and who know the time needed to apply them. Obviously, we didn't participate in such resolutions. The United States, President Bush, and all those he consulted know this, and they alone can reply to such a question.

[Levaille] Basically, Mr. President, you have 45 days to show yourself as bold as President Bush. Why not start a partial withdrawal from Kuwait?

[Saddam] As far as dialogue goes, we are bolder than President Bush. We are the ones who had the idea of such a dialogue. I had said many times that the governments would be making a serious mistake if they did not hold an in-depth dialogue with Iraq. If the initiative for holding a dialogue is a mark of boldness, those who had this initiative should be described as bold. In spite of this, it is not very important with whom or how this dialogue started. The important thing is that this dialogue should end up on a path other than that of war. If the aim of the Washington meeting is something different than that, the approaches then will perhaps be intentions of war and not of peace.

[Ockrent] Indeed, this is the whole difference between war and peace. What gesture are you ready to make to convince the entire world of your goodwill at the time you are beginning this dialogue? What concrete gesture, what proposal?

[Saddam] There is no proposal more important than a dialogue to reach a solution to the problems of the region, and the chief one, the Palestinian problem, to reach a complete and comprehensive solution—not a partial settlement of one of the consequences of this problem in this region, and on this we are decided. You know, for example, what is said in the West on the subject of what you call the hostages and what we call our guests: That is one of the simple and secondary questions, and it has never been the heart of the problem. We have taken a series of initiatives on this subject, and we have even set a date, 25 March, as the last date for these nationals [to be held], so long as nothing happenes to disturb the peace. We have said that we would begin to allow all foreigners who are temporarily prevented from traveling to begin circulating from 25 December, Christmas Day: However, in reality, at a practical level, we have done this well before that date, and after the communique we have allowed a great number of nationals to leave Iraq.

[Ockrent] These inhumane salami tactics applied to the hostages whom you are releasing in small groups, you must admit that these tactics have not been effective, as you have not divided the international community. Does keeping hostages until 25 March, well beyond the United Nations ultimatum, still appear to you a way of deterring a possible offensive?

[Saddam] These are not tactics to sow discord in the ranks of anyone whatever, but these are means which we consider liable to prevent war. Such a means has perhaps demonstrated its effectiveness, because up to now there has been no war: I think that this should gladden mankind, and not only the Iraqis. Between now and 25 March there is sufficient time to see whether the world wants war or peace, or rather whether the United States want war or not.

[Levaille] The international community reproaches you with two things: The hostages and the occupation of Kuwait. On Kuwait, you still consider that nothing is negotiable. On the hostages, could you not release them all—the Americans, the English, the Russians on 25 December next?

[Ockrent] Or tomorrow?

[Levaille] Or tomorrow?

[Saddam] We could release them, to use your words, or rather authorize them to travel, to use ours, as soon as we had assurance that President Bush will not attack the Iraqi people between now and 25 March. If after 25 March he still has the devil in his head, and if he decides to attack us, we shall then count on God to meet any eventuality. Is war a gain for mankind? What would the French people gain if there was war? Nothing but damage. It is necessary to ask Bush to give the assurance not to resort to arms until 25 March in order to give you and to give others an opportunity to find a better path. So long as the possibility of the recourse to arms exists, the U.S. President will not concentrate sufficiently on dialogue to achieve results which will serve peace.

[Ockrent] But you were the one who took up weapons to conquer Kuwait, an independent state and member of the United Nations. Now that President Bush is proposing a dialogue, and is thus saving your face in a way, why not give a hint of a possibility about Kuwait—territorial rearrangements, for example?

[Saddam] Our face is safe. We don't need Bush for that. Our face is safe, because we are believers. Perhaps, Madame Ockrent, when you asked that, you did not remember the historical background. You know that Bush has not taken the same measures with regard to the occupation of Palestine by Israel. If he didn't lift a finger when he saw with his own eyes on the television screen men and children, women and old people being killed, humiliated, tortured in Palestine by the Israelis, this is where the problem lies: the difference in mentality between Westerners and Muslims. The problem with some Western administrations and the U.S. Administration first and foremost, is that when we speak of Palestine and the tragedy of the Palestinian people, we are told it is a different problem. Why? Because there is no oil in Palestine? If the Palestinians had owned oil, and could control the flow as they liked, President Bush and the others would have attached more importance to them than they do today.

The problem is that President Bush and other Western heads of state have two UN charters: one charter in their left pocket and one charter in their right pocket, just as they have two scales, one scale for buying and one scale for selling. And they have two (?names), one criterion according to their short-term evaluations of their needs and their interests or the directions of their strategy, and one criterion for the oppressed peoples of the Third World, oppressed above all by the policies of the Western bloc and by the United States in particular.

That is the difference between us and Bush. That is the fundamental difference between us and the Western administrations which have supported and continue to support Bush. When there is just one criterion and just one UN charter and just one way of applying the resolutions of the Security Council, then there will be no more difference.

When the countries of the Third World are viewed with respect, the same as that which exists between the United States and France, or between France and the USSR, between Iraq and the other Arab and Muslim countries and the other countries of the Third World, then there will no longer be any problems between us.

[Levaille] Mr. President, Christine Ockrent and I can go freely to the West Bank and Gaza; we cannot go to Kuwait to verify whether the toll which has been given to us in the West is correct: 7,000 dead among the civilian population, 21,000 missing and, President Bush has said, rape, looting, theft. What is right for one side should also apply to the other—can't we go to Kuwait, and can't we ask you today what your toll is, and how many Iraqi dead there are?

[Saddam] I believe that you are not convinced by the questions you are asking. You ask these questions to learn about certain aspects of things. I do not blame you for it, as you are journalists. Perhaps you will have the opportunity to go to the occupied territories; would it have been possible for you to go there if war was at its height between Arabs and Israelis, or was about to break out? If you went to Kuwait, perhaps not you but other journalists, you would report with precision everything which you would have seen with regard to our troops there, their numbers, their camps, the nature of their entrenchment, and at the same time the nature of the bombs and the shells which could put paid [to the other side], thus rendering a great service to our enemies who are waiting for the right moment for war. If President Bush renounces war, we will be ..ble to permit you, yourself and others, to go to Kuwait in order to be able to

observe to what extent these claims are exaggerated, indeed even groundless, with regard to the figures which you have just quoted.

[Ockrent] A fact, however: You say that the fate of the Palestinians is close to your heart. In Kuwait there were 400,000 Palestinians who were also the victims of violence and theft, and for them it is economic ruin. How do you reconcile this concern for the Palestinian cause and the harm, the wrong, done to the Palestinians who were working in Kuwait?

[Saddam] I know the significance of this question, and I did not expect to be asked a question so far from the truth. If the Palestinians of Kuwait had been the victims of such excesses, then the Palestinians of the occupied territories would not have shouted: Long live Iraq! But to say that the Palestinians and others have suffered economic losses, I can understand that, and Iraq today is suffering such losses; but the Palestinians, the Arabs, know that Iraq's wealth does not belong just to the Iraqis, as was the case in the past.

[Levaille] I have sought to find out who your friends were, and who your enemies were. I have not found many of your friends; I have found many of your opponents in the world who are all asking you for the same thing—not many friends in the Arab world, no friends on the other side, the Iranian side, not many friends in the West, and you are isolated not just by the governments, but by public opinion too. A poll carried out by the U.S. magazine NEWSWEEK revealed that 53 percent of Americans found you had points in common with Hitler, and President Bush said of you the day before yesterday that you were a dangerous dictator. How can you hold out in the face of all that?

[Saddam] When you speak of friends, are you talking about individuals or peoples?

[Levaille] Both.

[Saddam] How do you consider these thousands of French demonstrators who took to the streets against war? Are they friends or are they, at least, against the Satan who lives in the White House? These hundreds or tens of thousands of demonstrators in Bangladesh who shout in favor of President Husayn; are these not friends? A people which burns a Saudi Arabian refinery which supplies kerosene to enemy aircraft; are these not friends? Did you not see the children of the stone [Palestinians] glorifying Iraq? Do you not consider them friends of Iraq? As for those who are eating at the tables of foreigners, we do not want them as friends.

[Levaille] Those are poor people who do not know that you are rich.

[Saddam] Our asset is among the poor and not among the vampires and the bloodsuckers. Our friendship is among those who love and fear God, not among the devils who deny God's good-doing.

[Ockrent] Mr. President, you have been in power for 22 years; you are the subject in this country of a personality cult which has no equivalent anywhere else. During all this crisis, and according to the isolation due to your authority, do you not think that you constantly underestimated the antagonism of the international community against you, and also its determination?

[Saddam] Protection comes from almighty God. He protects us and protects our people from the personality cult, because our people adore God only. Every individual is mortal. What exists in Iraq between the leaders and the people is not adoration, may God protect us from it. It is a love relationship. Have you not loved yourselves, Sir and Madam? In your country, you have gone beyond this kind of relation between the people and its leaders. Leaders in you countries, when they want to improve the standard of living, they could not do better than 5 or 6 percent per annum, despite the fact that France has been an independent country for a long time. In our countries, when the leader wants to be loyal and sincere, he could give much more to the people. This is what happened in Iraq. Twenty years ago, the people were in such a state; now their condition has changed. They know that all the positive developments which took place are not due to factors foreign to Iraq, but to internal factors indeed. What was wrong before was due to the former leaders. This is why there is such an attachment of the Iraqi people to the current leaders.

[Levaille] The Iraqi people were in an eight-year war against Iran. You acquire $18 billion a year from oil incomes. You have an army which costs a terrible lot. Do you not think that the Iraqis want something other than war? We have been told here that the news of the recall of the 1958, 1959, and 1960 classes has been very hard news from young men who had just obtained the right of getting married and having children. Why not reduce your war effort and leave Kuwait?

[Saddam] Myself, I tell the Iraqis every day that I want something other than war. Myself first of all, I say that I do not want such a large army which involves such expenditure. I do not want war either. Any sane man reacts in the same way and rejects war. We, the Iraqis, have a civilization of more than 6,000 years; this why we are well balanced. It is only normal that the Iraqis, all the Iraqis, wish something other than war. It is the ill-intentioned people who do leave any choice to Iraq. They do not allow it to choose another way. This choice is made by them, not the Iraqis. Therefore, keeping a great army, as you said, is not the choice of the Iraqis. The permanent threat of a war waged against Iraq was not wanted by the Iraqis.

You know very well that our great army developed as it was defending Iraq, during that war between us and our neighbor Iran, that war which we thank God is over, and you know that at the end of the hostilities—on 8 August 1988—we demobilized 30 divisions of our ground army. We had to mobilize these 30 divisions again following the threats from the United States.

[Levaille] Is it [words indistinct] Iraq to endow itself with a nuclear capability and the Americans say that this will be the case in one or two years' time?

[Saddam] I am speaking of the present: If we had nuclear weapons we would not suffer any embarrassment in saying so. Well, you know that Israel possesses a nuclear weapon, but it is thanks to the Western political and media statements that we know this. But we do not possess a nuclear weapon. However, as a matter of principle, let us discuss this logic which does not tolerate in the Arabs and Muslims what is tolerated in others. The United States and the USSR have reached peace thanks to a balance of forces, and you in the West, you adopt the same logic to reach peace: The proof is that France possesses a nuclear weapon. Why then does the West not take umbrage, why does it not protest, why does it not worry about Israel's destructive capabilities in a region of 200 million inhabitants who are God's creatures, and at the same time the West is on the look-out for the least tittle-tattle, the least ill- intentioned rumor alleging that Iraq possesses the nuclear weapon.

[Ockrent] To listen to you, you have become the hero, or at any rate the head of the Arab world in the face of the West and the Soviet Union. Do you see there the new power relations which are in the process of forming, and do you believe in that type of confrontation?

[Saddam] I think that I am the slave of God, that I am a believer; I have my own personality like 18 million Iraqis, and I wish that every man on earth should also have his own. Let us leave aside these questions of power. What is important is the humanity in each man, in his internal strength and his way of treating others. Titles and appellations are of little importance; all that is secondary and will be forgotten. What counts is the humanity of the individual in his relations with others, and above all in his relation with the Almighty. This is what we Iraqis believe. This is what we wish for all the others.

[Levaille] There is God and then there is history, and history this year has been about the relations between Moscow and Washington, Paris, London, Madrid, Rome, Cairo, which are asking you the same thing, to withdraw from Kuwait and release the hostages.

[Saddam] If one half opens the door to a thorough dialogue, we believe that human intelligence will be able to establish bridges, a common vision and convincing solutions to all these problems. But the important thing is that there should be the same sauce for the goose as for the gander.

This dialogue should be established on the basis of a common, humane vision of all the problems of the area, and it should not concentrate on one problem alone.

[Ockrent] With regard to these global negotiations which you are demanding before entering into a dialogue with the United States, do you imagine them to be within the framework of the United Nations, all of the resolutions of which you have systematically and very fiercely rejected?

[Saddam] What is happening at the moment could be the preamble to this dialogue in which all parties would participate, in other words, that the U.S. President accepts the idea of a meeting. We have not known until this point whether he accepts this idea in order to let us know about new decisions, or to repeat to us the positions with which we are already familiar, and if he wishes to meet us in a spirit of dialogue, this meeting could be the beginning of an extended dialogue between all parties, and this is what we wish for.

[Levaille] He is going to ask you for something. President Bush is going to ask you for something, the same thing that President Mitterrand asked for in September: the principle of a partial withdrawal from Kuwait. At least the principle of a partial withdrawal from Kuwait to start with, up to a total withdrawal.

[Saddam] It is normal that every time there is a dialogue moving toward an agreement, the sides should arrive at a compromise. But the important thing is that the dialogue should cover all the problems of the region, so that the peace would be a real and global one, in order to relieve the peoples involved, and so that each one would be able to make long-term plans for the future and so that the region would no longer be exposed to misfortunes and troubles, to injustice and insecurity. If the great powers despair of reaching a satisfying solution for the parties involved, let them give the Arabs a chance to solve their problems among themselves, as they have always done.

[Levaille] If I understand you rightly, then, you agree to Kuwait being one of the subjects to be discussed during this dialogue. Do you want this dialogue to be extended to other members of the Security Council, including France?

[Saddam] It is obvious that we are dealing with a crisis of confidence. For example, we know that the French people would not accept children or old people dying for lack of medicine. Yet we can see that the French authorities agree to the embargo imposed by the United States without attaching much importance to their previous relations between us. Even though there are not any resolutions allowing this, there is a very unambiguous passage in the UN Charter forbidding an embargo on food and medicines for political ends. Yet we have seen that many French politicians accept that Iraqis should die of hunger and that children should starve. Does not such a situation create a crisis of confidence?

[Ockrent] How can you claim there are no medicines when...

[Saddam, interrupting] Wait a moment. [laughing] In spite of everything, we still have a lot of confidence in the French people. We still hope that French politicians

will change their minds. It is harmful to France's prestige and to the great French humanitarian principles.

Thus, we believe that the presence of French representatives at these meetings which we are preparing would be preferable to staying with the face-to-face between Iraq and the United States, when the Americans have much larger information resources than the Iraqis: This can influence international public opinion. But in recent times France has not been active, one does not really know why; it is as if it did not feel itself to be concerned.

[Levaille] Do you regret this? I think that Christine and I would like to inform the president that you received 100 tonnes of medicines last month. This is my question: Could these 100 tonnes of medicines you received not be distributed?

[Saddam] We are distributing them, but you know how many tonnes of medicines are needed for the French people. Five tonnes here, five tonnes there is not enough for the Iraqi people. If we look back at what you used to send us before, it is natural that we are very sad to see what is happening in the framework of French foreign policy. We still consider France a friendly country. A simple difference of opinion does not worry us. That can happen as a result of a difference in analyses by France and Iraq. But we cannot but regret that a friendship dating back several decades should be affected by it.

[Levaille] Mr. President, you know that between France and Iraq there is Kuwait and the hostages, and I should like to ask you whether you think the Gulf crisis will be over next spring?

[Saddam] Experience has taught us not to put time limits on problems that are not of our making. The decision to put an end to it in a given time is not up to us. So as not to make an error over timing, we prefer to bet on the long term in order to act in a balanced way should these problems have a speedier solution.

We hope this crisis in the region will find a solution today, that is to say, a global and integrated peace for all the peoples of the region, with all the positive consequences that might have on world peace. That does not depend on us; it depends on Bush and those who are pushing him into war.

[Ockrent] And this evening, are we closer to war or to peace?

[Saddam] Fifty-fifty [previous words in English]. If we want to make these meetings occasions for dialogue, then we will be closer to war, and if we want this meeting to be a simple formal show before the Congress and international opinion so as to have a clear conscience and say: We have met the Iraqis, but they have not changed their stand, so war is the only solution: Then, we will be closer to armed conflict.

[Ockrent] Thank you, Mr. President.

RCC Responds to Bush Offer of Negotiations

JN0112115290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1043 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Brothers: Leader President Saddam Husayn chaired a Revolution Command Council [RCC[meeting attended by Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of the National Assembly; and Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information. Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Foreign Ministry experts also attended.

At the beginning of the meeting, leader President Saddam Husayn and those present read prayers for the souls of our righteous martyrs on Martyr's Day. The meeting dealt with the latest developments in the international situation.

In this regard, the Council issued a statement, the text of which is as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. If the enemy incline towards peace, do thou also incline towards peace, and trust in God: for he is the one that heareth and knoweth all things. [Koranic verses]

O great Iraqi people, O sons of the Arab nation, O Muslims and all faithful people wherever you are in the world, O chivalrous soldiers of our brave Armed Forces: We learned about a statement made by Bush yesterday as it was disseminated by news agencies. In his statement, he proposes inviting the Iraqi foreign minister to Washington for a meeting with him, and sending his secretary of state to Baghdad to meet with leader President Saddam Husayn.

O brothers and friends, you remember that from the beginning Iraq affirmed that in human society in this age nobody can do without the other, not only for the reasons that God Almighty has ordained for the sons of Eve and Adam, but for additional considerations brought about by the characteristics of this period and its practical aspects. Because we believe that, in order for mankind to cooperate in a genuine and profound manner, relations based on right and justice must be established and methods based on arrogance, political domination, threats, social injustice, and exploitation should be uprooted; that new relationships should be established on the ruins of the era of domination and unfair standards that have been established by the great powers, led by the United States of America. These relations should prevail in the world and must be democratically established and based on equality and the desire for cooperation.

We believe that cooperation can be accomplished as the result of deep interaction among nations and peoples. In order to achieve cooperation, dialogue should be preferred over any other method. Our announcements on this have been frequent.

The enemy of God, the arrogant president of the United States, George Bush, has always rejected dialogue,

voicing his contempt of the Arabs and Muslims, and all those who believe in God and human values in the world.

Despite the fact that Bush's call for the meeting came after he mobilized all the criminal forces on the holy places of the Arabs and Muslims; after he issued unjust resolutions through the so-called Security Council against the people of Iraq; and despite the arrogant language he used in his call, which came about in a way that is strange to the ways of those who seek serious dialogue rather than a propaganda show to justify the aggression against Iraq that he decided on in the first place; and in harmony with our principles and the ethics and morals that Almighty God called on us to abide by, we accept the idea of the invitation and the meeting. When we receive the invitation officially, those concerned in Iraq and those concerned in the United States will agree on the timing and practical arrangements of the exchanged visits to suit both sides.

Because the call for the meeting contains an idea whose purposes are not clear enough—namely, the U.S. President's invitation to several countries' ambassadors to attend the meeting between himself and the Iraqi foreign minister—we will inquire from the American side about this idea and the reasons for it. If the American side believes that it is necessary, Iraq, for its part, will call on representatives of countries and parties that are connected with unresolved disputes and issues to attend the meetings between Iraq and the U.S. Administration, whether in Washington or Baghdad. This will take place after consultations with the concerned parties on the basis of reciprocity.

In any case, our efforts will continue—as always—to hold an in-depth, serious dialogue, not formal meetings as sought by the American President to hold up to American public opinion, the U.S. Congress, world public opinion, and the international community as a pretext to achieve objectives that he planned in the first place.

Iraq will continue to follow up and expand any room for dialogue instead of using threats and warnings. The principles of leader President Saddam Husayn's 12 August 1990 initiative will be our guide in any serious dialogue.

Palestine and the other occupied Arab territories will remain before our eyes and at the forefront of the issues that we will discuss in any dialogue.

God is great.

[Dated] 13 Jumada al-Ula 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 1 December 1990

UN Envoy Says Bush Initiative 'Positive Step'

JN0112062190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0505 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Telephone interview with UN Ambassador 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari in New York by an unidentified reporter in Amman on 1 December—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] What is your opinion on the U.S. President's initiative to open a dialogue with Iraq to solve the Gulf crisis?

[Al-Anbari] Iraq has always called for a peaceful solution and negotiations, provided they include all the region's problems. Until a week ago, as you know, President Bush had considered any negotiations with Iraq before its unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait as a kind of concession. In that sense, this is a positive step for Iraq. Iraq has always said, in the Security Council as well as in all other international meetings, that the problem should be solved not through force and war but through negotiations with the aim of finding a comprehensive and just solution for all the region's problems.

[Reporter] Mr. Ambassador, what is you opinion on the atmosphere that surrounded the UN Security Council's Thursday meeting in which it issued its Resolution No. 678?

[Al-Anbari] My view, which is the Iraqi view, is that the resolution is illegal, because even the Security Council has no absolute power to use force. There are certain conditions and certain mechanisms. Regrettably, the resolution came in a way that creates a sort of confusion in the world, giving the right of a state such as Israel to attack Iraq, because Israel is a UN member. Our position is that this resolution does not serve the cause of peace or the cause of solving problems in the region. On the contrary, the resolution complicates matters and makes the region tense. You are aware that the Iraqi Revolution Command Council issued a statement yesterday in which it voiced its denunciation and rejection of the resolution and its readiness even to fight rather than submit to the U.S. decision, which is the same thing as the UN resolution.

Now circumstances have changed. After the U.S. initiative, the resolution now has no real significance, perhaps. However, until yesterday, we had been regarding the resolution as a war resolution, as an aggressive, illegal resolution that did not serve the cause of peace.

[Reporter] Mr. Ambassador, are you optimistic in view of the fact that, in this prevailing dark atmosphere we see some relief represented by the latest U.S. initiative?

[Al-Anbari] Yes, I am optimistic in fact because I believe that any responsible man—anybody who is in full possession of his five senses, knows that any war in the Gulf will not result in any victors, that the region will be turned into an inferno because of the oil and gas installations and wells there, and no form of life will remain if war broke out. Therefore, I do not believe that anyone who has any sense of responsibility toward mankind, regardless of his selfish motives or his stands against the Arabs, would think of declaring war. However, this is my own opinion but others may not think the same. I am convinced of it and I am very much aware of the region. This might explain the desire of the U.S. Administration to find a peaceful solution or a compromise instead of resorting to war.

[Report] We thank 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, the Iraqi UN Ambassador.

[Al-Anbari] You are welcome.

Press Calls For 'Serious and Thorough' Dialogue

JN0212075190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Dec (INA)—Two Iraqi newspapers ask the U.S. Administration to confirm the credibility of its claims to safeguard peace and international legitimacy and protect human rights during the negotiations with Iraq offered by President Bush.

In their editorials today, the newspapers AL-'IRAQ and AL- QADISIYAH refuse to see these negotiations used as a pretext or excuse for peddling the aggression scheme against Iraq.

AL-QADISIYAH, newspaper of the Ministry of Defense, says that the dialogue that Iraq wants should be serious and thorough, rather than a pro forma meeting that Bush needs to overcome his domestic problems and that he might use as a new pretext with the U.S. people to justify his aggression against Iraq.

AL-QADISIYAH sets the condition that any serious and effective negotiations should be based on the principle that dialogue between Iraq and the U.S. Administration must be based on the principles of equity and mutual respect for legitimate interests and rights. The paper adds that Iraq rejects the arrogant and condescending practices and the threats to use brute force.

The paper reaffirms Iraq's eagerness for peace from the beginning of the so-called Gulf crisis. The paper adds: Iraq has proposed numerous initiatives in this regard. Iraq will seek to continue and expand any window for dialogue that would replace the language of threats.

The newspaper AL-'IRAQ expresses the hope that the U.S. President's idea is not merely a tactical move designed to diminish popular opposition inside the United States and world opposition to war.

The paper says that "Iraq has, from a position of strength and capability called for launching a serious, quiet, and thorough dialogue on all regional problems, foremost among which is the Palestine question."

U.S. Citizens Leave Baghdad With Muhammad Ali

JN0212152390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1511 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] In implementation of leader President Saddam Husayn's orders to allow a number of U.S. citizens to either leave or stay in Iraq as they wish, a number of American guests of the Iraqi people left Baghdad this afternoon accompanied by Hajji Muhammad Ali, former heavyweight boxing champion.

In statements to the INA correspondent, the departing guests of Iraq expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the good treatment and hospitality they were accorded by the Iraqi leadership and people during their stay. Mr. Harold Marti said leader President Saddam Husayn's initiative to allow them to leave for their country or stay in Iraq as they wish is a humanitarian gesture that reflects Iraq's desire to achieve peace in the region.

Mr. Lee Chin praised the good care and hospitality he received from the people and government of Iraq during his stay in Iraq. Mr. Arnold Mark expressed great satisfaction with the good treatment he received from the Iraqi officials duing his stay in Iraq, stressing that negotiations and dialogue are the best course for achieving comprehensive and lasting peace in the region.

25 Belgian Nationals Leave Baghdad 2 Dec

JN0212154690 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] In implementation of leader President Saddam Husayn's order and in accordance with the National Assembly's recommendation to allow the Belgian nationals, who are the Iraqi people's guests, to leave or stay in Iraq as they wish, 25 Belgian nationals left Baghdad for home aboard a special Belgian plane this afternoon.

In statements to an INA correspondent, the departing Belgian guests expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Iraqi Government and people for the hospitality and care they were accorded during their stay. They also described leader President Saddam Husayn's decision to allow them to leave or stay in Iraq as they choose as a humanitarian initiative proving Iraq's sincere desire to bring about a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region.

UN Envoy Addresses Security Council

JN3011161690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Excerpt] New York, 30 Nov (INA)—Last night, the UN Security Council issued an illegal American resolution calling on Iraq to comply with the previous American resolutions issued by the Council.

The INA correspondent in New York said that the resolution gives Iraq a 45-day opportunity to use all necessary means to observe and implement the unjust resolutions.

Iraq's permanent representative at the United Nations delivered a speech at the session in which he exposed the policy of the U.S. Administration, its blatant violation of the principle of dealing with all countries and peoples on an equal footing, and its encroachment on the human essence on which the international relations should be based.

The Iraqi representative said that the principles on which the U.S. Administration bases its policy, the

pretexts it claims, and the objectives it declares contradict each other. Their ultimate outcome is a result of the double-standard method of dealing with issues of the same nature taking into consideration purely American interests.

The representative of Iraq spoke of the international order claimed by the U.S. Administration. He asked: What are the characteristics of this order if it requires following a double- standards policy that neither recognizes the concepts of nations nor fairness? He also asked: Where is the international trait of this order if it seeks to impose hegemony and implement American orders to guarantee the political, economic, and security interests of the United States without taking into account the interests of others?

Iraq's permanent representative at the United Nations noted that the recent Security Council resolution against Iraq has exposed the fact that the small countries, which do not have the right to use the veto at the Security Council and which do not find a major power with a permanent seat on the Council to protect them, are the only ones exposed to sanctions in accordance with Chapter Seven of the UN Charter.

He noted in this regard that the United States Administration has for many years prevented international consensus from imposing sanctions on the Zionist entity for its aggressive and expansionist policy and for the crimes it has been committing since its establishment against the Palestinian people and the Arab people in general.

He added that the situation in the Gulf has proven, among other things, that the United States has full control over the Security Council and hence its unjust and biased measures. However, the situation in the Gulf has at the same time proven Iraq's independence and nonalignment in the full sense of the world, because it is neither affiliated with nor protected by any of the major powers with a permanent seat on the Security Council.

The Iraqi representative rejected the U.S. Administration's contradictory, declared objectives in deploying its invading troops on the land of the Islamic holy shrines and the way it progressed from claims to protect Saudi Arabia from the alleged Iraqi threat, to statements that the goal was to guarantee U.S. economic security in the fields of energy and employment, and finally to claims that Iraq owned nuclear weapons. This last point was made clear when it became evident to the U.S. Administration that the goals declared earlier did not receive the necessary support inside the United States itself.

He reminded the Security Council members of how the United States has dealt with the rights of the Palestinian people in the United Nations throughout the history of their cause. He said that the way the United States handled the situation was the shameful result of delay, stalling, postponement, beating around the bush, and preventing resolutions that formulated sound measures to protect the Palestinian people and guarantee their rights.

The Iraqi representative concluded his speech by highlighting Iraq's honest desire for peace based on the just implementation of all Security Council resolutions and in accordance with unified standards based on justice and equality.

He said Iraq has manifested this policy in the initiative that President Saddam Husayn declared on 12 August and which included a comprehensive and integrated formula for dealing with all the issues in the Middle East region through the Security Council based on international law to guarantee the legitimate rights and interests of all parties so that the people in the region could enjoy peace, stability, and prosperity for now and in the future.

He called on the members of the Security Council to rise to their responsibilities in establishing comprehensive, just, and permanent peace through an integrated program to deal with all the issues in the region. [passage omitted]

Assembly Denounces Security Council Resolution

JN0112215890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2106 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] The representatives of the Iraqi people have denounced the recent UN Security Council resolution against Iraq. In a statement issued by the National Assembly today, they stressed that unjust resolutions representing the American viewpoint and serving the aggressive objectives of the U.S. Administration cannot but lead to further tension and war, which, if it breaks out, will only lead to an overall human tragedy whose legal and humanitarian responsibility the U.S. Administration and those who followed its steps of the allies and agents, should bear.

The statement described the UN Security Council resolution as a serious precedent in the history of the United Nations, which has only been established to reinforce the values of right, the principles of justice, and the bases of peace in the human community. The statement added that the U.S. Administration, along with those of the UN Security Council members who agreed to its hostile intentions, assassinated the principles of the United Nations and international law when it forced the Council to adopt an unjust and illegal resolution that completely conflicts with its objectives of spreading security, peace, and stability. It forced the Council members, under the pressure of terrorism, blackmail, intimidation, and enticement, to issue the war resolution against the peaceful Arab and Muslim Iraq, which is one of the founders of the United Nations and one of its effective members, and thus added to its crimes a new hideous crime which shocked humanity: hegemony over international decisionmaking and depriving the international will of its freedom.

The statement added: The free world was astonished and the human conscience was violently shaken by the crime perpetrated by the UN Security Council under direct American pressure when it issued a war resolution, thus

violating the noble, exalted objectives for the sake of which the United Nations was founded. Paragraph 1 of Article 1 of the UN Charter, Chapter 1, states that the goals of this international organization are maintenance of world peace and security. It added: Humanity is innocent of those who put their disgraceful signatures to the war resolution issued by the UN Security Council, which mankind had wanted to be a council of world peace and security; the U.S. Administration turned it into a council for war and aggression.

The statement explained that while condemning and denouncing this illegitimate decision of war, and strongly denouncing all the exposed and hidden hands behind the pressure to get it passed, the Iraqi people's representatives declare from here, from the land of the Arab, Muslim, steadfast, and militant [mujahid] Iraq, and from the homeland of the chivalrous Arab leader, leader President Saddam Husayn, that our great people cannot be terrorized by the will of evil or the ravens of aggression.

The statement noted that the Iraqi National Assembly, on behalf of the glorious, valiant, and one people of Iraq, who are united from Zakho to the sea, rejects this illegitimate resolution and denuonces all those who signed it because the people of Iraq are today stronger than ever before now that all has been exposed [words indistinct] and the faces of all those who sold their honor, ethics, and principles and joined the trench of war, aggression, and terrorism in return for cheap bribes and disgraceful aid.

Demonstrators Protest Security Council Resolution

JN0112135690 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Angry, tumultuous, and massive demonstrations were staged in Baghdad and other governorates today condemning the unjust UN Security Council [UNSC] resolution blessing the U.S. Administration's evil efforts to launch aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation.

The masses holding the demonstrations reaffirmed that the resolution passed under U.S. pressure is a dangerous precedent in history, as the Council, which calls itself the UNSC, adopted a resolution of war and aggression whose character was created by the U.S. Administration, which brought various types of pressure to bear to secure its passage, in cooperation with Bush's agents who paid considerable amounts of money to buy the votes of some UNSC member states.

In their chants, the angry masses expressed their rejection of the UNSC resolution, because it does not represent the will of international legitimacy, because it is null and void, and also because it is a U.S. resolution, since the United States used all of its resources and influence to bring pressure to bear on the UNSC members to make them succumb to its hostile strategy to humiliate people and make them enemies.

The chants voiced by the angry masses stressed that by its shameful resolution and by the hegemony of the U.S. policy, the UNSC has turned into an oppressive organ and a theater for dirty deals, rather than an international forum that deals fairly with peoples' grievances, restores their legitimate national rights and their full national sovereignty on their national soil, and helps fulfill their desire for a free and decent life.

The masses expressed their allegiance to the leadership of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, architect of Iraq's modern renaissance, their readiness to defend the borders of the homeland from Zakho to the sea, and their categorical rejection of the provocative threats contained in the unjust resolution.

Paper on Expulsion of Journalist From U.S.

JN0312094990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Dec (INA)—The U.S. authorities have refused to allow the INA correspondent to continue his journalistic duties and have asked him to leave the United States, which in fact he has already done.

Commenting on this U.S. stand, the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the rejection of these authorities comes at a time when scores of U.S. journalists are present in Iraq. Over 1,700 foreign journalists have been received, including hundreds of Americans. Iraq has provided them with facilities to perform their tasks while the United States has refused to allow one Iraqi journalist to continue his normal professional duties.

The paper goes on to say that recently the United States and its secret service discovered that the presence of an Iraqi general in Washington poses a danger to democracy, security, and human rights.

It says: It seems that the National Security Council met and was briefed on the dangers of this general's presence. The National Security adviser recommended to the White House to expel the Iraqi general, or journalist, and stop him from performing the work he was entrusted with in Washington.

It adds: This vast country which claims democracy has been upset by the presence of one Iraqi journalist and has imagined him to be a dangerous general whose presence threatens the security of the United States. In the course of discussing the fake U.S. democracy, the newspaper notes that the United States had earlier imagined that the official responsible for the Iraqi media department in Washington was a brigadier, and had deported him, too.

Also, the British authorities have not granted the Iraqi journalist Amir al-Hilu an entry visa to visit Britain on a journalistic mission.

In a column published by the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH today the journalist noted the number of times he had reported to the British Embassy in Baghdad to obtain a visa, and the Embassy's unconvincing

answers 35 days after his request. He asks: Where is the freedom and democracy that Great Britain boasts about and why does it prevent the visit of a journalist from the Third World to Britain at a time when Iraq receives hundreds of British journalists, is not afraid of them and does not restrict their journalistic freedom. These journalists find doors open for them to meet with Iraqi officials, hold meetings and conduct journalistic investigations. While expressing his surprise, the journalist says: Does the entry of one defenseless journalist into Britain pose a danger to British national security?

Spokesman Comments on Shevardnadze Remarks

JN0212102490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1013 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Dec (INA)—Iraq has expressed amazement over the statements made by Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze and termed them provocative.

A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry laid emphasis on the part of the statement made by Shevardnadze to the effect that the Soviet Union would send troops to the Gulf if Soviet nationals [in Iraq] were mistreated.

In a statement to INA, the spokesman added that the Soviet minister seems to be looking for a pretext to send these troops to the region.

The spokesman cautioned the Soviet leadership, saying that it would lose its friendship with 200 million Arabs if Soviet conduct were to go further than it has gone so far.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman added: The Soviet nationals working in Iraq over the long period in which we have maintained ties have been serious in performing the jobs assigned to them in their contracts. They have always been held in high esteem by the Iraqi people and government because of these characteristics, in addition to the friendship between Iraq and the USSR—a friendship that Iraq is still eager to protect at a time when Soviet Government officials are adopting a different position.

The spokesman went on to say: Regardless of the remarks we have heard on the positions of Soviet officials with respect to the so- called Gulf crisis, these remarks have never caused Iraqi citizens or officials to mistreat any Soviet citizen working in Iraq in accordance with contractual obligations between the two countries.

The spokesman said: These citizens are working in Iraq and leading a normal life and whoever among them expressed a desire to leave Iraq after the expiration of his contract, or when he had no job to perform, has already left. The number of those who have left so far is in the several thousands. This was stated in a Foreign Ministry statement dated 28 November.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said that we are very much surprised by the provocative statements carried by news agencies citing Mr. Shevardnadze, particularly his saying that the USSR would send more forces to the Gulf if Soviet citizens were mistreated.

The spokesman went on to say: By making this statement, which has no foundation whatsoever, Mr. Shevardnadze seems to be looking for an excuse to send forces to the region without consulting the Supreme Soviet Presidium, which has severely criticized similar statements made by Shevardnadze.

The spokesman added: After explaining our position on Soviet nationals and repeating that we treat them in a normal way and that they enjoy full care and security, we would like to tell Mr. Shevardnadze that the forces present in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf are not small, and that potential extra forces will not frighten us and will not make us deviate from the right path at a time when some have deviated from this path.

We would like to call attention to Iraq's growing capabilities that reinforce the front of confrontation against all aggressors. The spokesman added that we will counter the weakness of the weak with our steadfastness against injustice and tyranny, and we will pray to God to have mercy on the weak and those who are subject to pressures and temptation.

At any rate, the spokesman went on to say, we must warn that any conduct that goes farther than what the Soviet side has already done might lead to the USSR losing its friendship with 200 million Arabs for several decades to come, and the USSR will appear in a way that we do not wish it to. The blame falls on evildoers.

American Delegation Brings Medicine to Baghdad

JN0212120090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 29 Nov (INA)—The American peacemakers delegation has praised Iraq's peaceful stands and initiatives to spare the region and the world the specter of a devastating war and to reach just and comprehensive solutions to the region's problems.

In a statement to INA, Grant Hudson [name as received] said the region's problems cannot be resolved through massing armies in this strategic region of the world, but through a peaceful dialogue that represents a practical and realistic solution to achieve peace in this region, and through completely ruling out the military option, especially since it will lead to a serious catastrophe against people who want freedom and stability.

He added that using food and medicine as a political weapon to punish people, particularly children, the disabled, and the sick, conflicts with basic human rights. He said that the adequate quantity of medicine they brought with them reflects their solidarity with the Iraqi people,

and their rejection of the economic blockade against Iraq and denying the Iraqi children medicine, milk, and food. [passage omitted]

'Aziz, Ortega Discuss 'Comprehensive' Peace

JN0212142990 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this evening received former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega.

They exchanged views on current regional developments and emphasized the importance of striving to bring about a comprehensive peace and regional stability, and thus spare the region the catastrophes of war.

The meeting was attended by Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs; the Foreign Ministry senior under secretary; and the head of the International Organizations and Conferences Department at the ministry.

U.S. Opposition to Gulf-Palestinian 'Linkage' Urged

TA0212072190 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Israel will relay a message to the United States demanding that Washington persist in its opposition to any linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Jerusalem political circles have reported that the U.S. policy will not [as heard] change in the wake of President Bush's declaration of his desire for a dialogue with Iraq. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports:

President Bush's announcement caught the Jerusalem decision makers, among others, by surprise. The decision to launch a dialogue with Iraq was not reported to Israel in advance. Jerusalem now fears a U.S. agreement to a linkage [preceding word in English] between the Gulf crisis and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Nonetheless, political circles last night expressed their assessment that the U.S. policy has not changed following President Bush's declaration. We believe the United States wants to attain the same goals it had set out for itself in the context of the Gulf issue, the circles emphasized.

Israel and the United States will maintain ambassadorial-level contacts in the next few days regarding the U.S.-Iraqi dialogue. In the message it will transmit to the United States, Israel will include a demand that the United States continue to stand by its firm objection to a linkage [preceding word in English] between the Gulf and the Palestinian problem. It will likewise stress that such linkage will only serve to detrimentally affect the chances for a solution in the Gulf.

Minister Yuval Ne'eman of Tehiya believes any future compromise between the United States and Iraq will come at Israel's expense.

Baker's visit to Baghdad is to me highly reminiscent of Chamberlain's visit to Munich, said Ne'eman.

Shamir Objects To Israel as 'Coin' to Iraq

TA0212103490 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 2 Dec 90 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Excerpt] When President Bush announced that he is dispatching Secretary of State Baker to confer with Saddam Husayn in Baghdad, the initial reaction in Jerusalem was that the U.S. President had capitulated to Iraq.

Yet last night, people in the prime minister's immediate circle already showed understanding for the U.S. President's domestic distress, which obligates him to talk to Saddam Husayn before he orders the U.S. Armed Forces to pull the trigger. Shamir's advisers said that Bush realizes he would not be able to go to war without a broad national consensus.

At the same time, the advisers said that Shamir will make it plain to the administration during his upcoming visit to Washington that Israel will not be prepared to serve as the coin with which the Americans will pay Iraq in the hope of appeasing it. [passage omitted]

[A report by Yo'el Esteron in Washington and Ilan Kfir, which appears on page 5 of the 2 December edition of Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew, adds that "Jerusalem is disappointed with the United States for not having let Israel in on its initiative and its attendant political implications. Political sources in Jerusalem fear that the initiative might weaken the United States and encourage Saddam Husayn's aggressive feelings, especially toward Israel. They maintain that any compromise agreement with Saddam Husayn would constitute an award for his aggression. The sources said only a settlement that will result in the complete withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait and will also neutralize its belligerency and make it dismantle its chemical weapons plants can be considered an achievement of the United States and the free world."

[A report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef and Menahem Rahat on page A2 of Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 2 December notes that "political sources in Jerusalem reacted with understanding and frustration to Bush's proposal. They maintain that they realize that, faced with pressure by the House of Representatives, the President had to take a demonstrative step to convince his opponents that he is taking all the steps to exhaust the political option.

["On the other hand, the same sources expressed apprehension from such a step.

["Other political sources voiced skepticism regarding the wisdom of an Iraqi-U.S. conciliatory move. They contend that the U.S. move might affect the international anti-Iraq coalition because it may last long." Minister Qatzav reportedly said "last night" that "Israel hopes Baker's visit to Baghdad would not harm the goals the United States had set for itself. He said: 'The U.S. withdrawal from its well-known positions bears a negative implication from Israel's standpoint, even though we welcome any initiative that could prevent an outbreak of war in the Gulf.'"]

Levi 'Pleased' With Baker Message

TA0212114090 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker today provided a response to the Israeli apprehensions with regard to the U.S.-Iraqi dialogue. In a message sent last night to his Israeli counterpart, David Levi, the secretary of state said: The recent moves by the United States signify no change of goals as far as the Gulf crisis is concerned. Foreign Minister David Levi is pleased by the message:

[Begin Levi recording] I can say this: There has been no change in the U.S. stand, there has been no change in its principles against aggression, and there has been no change in its objection to any linkage between the Iraqi aggression and the Israeli-Arab conflict. [end recording]

Minister Levi urged the ministers to avoid making detrimental remarks on the U.S.-Iraqi dialogue. On this point, Minister Yuval Ne'eman presented his reservations and fear that any U.S.-Iraqi settlement will be made at Israel's expense. Levi responded to this by saying: These remarks are harmful. Ne'eman said: U.S. Senator Dole has said the same. Levi said: Still, there is a difference between a U.S. senator and a minister in the Israeli Government. These remarks, added Levi, are harmful and do not reflect the cabinet's stand. The prime minister confirmed Levi's statement.

Cautions Against 'Pushing' U.S.

TA0212123990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by political correspondent Arye Golan on 2 December in Jerusalem; interview conducted after the Cabinet meeting—recorded]

[Text] In the political part of the Cabinet meeting, which also included reports by the finance minister on the general strike and the negotiations with the trade union, Foreign Minister David Levi reported on the message he received last night from his U.S. counterpart, James Baker. The primary part of the message has already been stated: There is no change whatsoever in the U.S. goals in the Gulf crisis, President Bush's attempt to attain a dialogue with Saddam Husayn notwithstanding.

Foreign Minister Levi further stated that ministers' remarks on the issue are harmful, and he demanded that his colleagues refrain from unnecessary talk. Minister Levi referred explicitly to the comparison made last night by Minister Yuval Ne'eman between Baker's anticipated visit to Baghdad and Chamberlain's trip to Munich on the eve of World War II.

[Begin recording] [Levi] I am not the only one to have reservations; the Cabinet distances itself from the statements and declarations against the United States which were voiced in the past 24 hours, and it is against the comparisons. They were not made on behalf of the government, which distances itself from them.

I have received a message from the secretary of state which explains the path elected by the administration and which purports no changes in its principles.

[Golan] Does President Bush's dialogue initiative conform with the State of Israel's interests, Mr. Foreign Minister?

[Levi] No need to make prophesies. It is inadvisable to appear to be pushing the United States into a war, and I hope this hint is sufficient to those with an interest in this issue. The Americans have their interests to take care of. As for us, we are being threatened, and we are doing everything necessary to avert every danger. In any event, the U.S. policy is determined by the U.S. President.

[Golan] Do you share the apprehensions expressed yesterday by Professor Yuval Ne'eman, who is a Cabinet member, that Israel will be forced to pay a high price for the compromise Washington attains with Baghdad?

[Levi] I take issue with this statement, as does the entire Cabinet; therefore, there is no need to talk of the price of compromise as long as there is no information on the subject. There is no need to compare the U.S. President with something that happened in World War II.

[Golan] To Chamberlain?

[Levi] Yes, Chamberlain. Therefore, I warn against such remarks in the future, and I certainly take issue with those already made. [end recording]

Ne'eman on 'Chamberlain' Remarks, U.S. Move

TA0212163790 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Interview with Yuval Ne'eman, minister of energy and infrastructure, science and technology, by Dan Margalit—live]

[Text] [Margalit] Minister Yuval Ne'eman is in our Jerusalem studio. Good afternoon, sir.

[Ne'eman] Good evening.

[Margalit] In the past few months, U.S. President George Bush has made various well-known remarks about Saddam Husayn, the most strident of which was the comparison he drew between Saddam and Hitler. We do not negotiate with terrorists, he said, but he is nevertheless dispatching Secretary of State Baker to Baghdad to at least make the U.S. position clear to Iraq. What is Israel's position on this U.S. move?

[Ne'eman] First, I would like to point out that I do not represent the Israeli position, merely my own opinion. I think the foreign minister and the prime minister may hold—they evidently do—a different view.

The comparison between Hitler and Saddam, which you have mentioned, is exactly what brought on my own reference to Chamberlain's trip to Munich. This was connected to Secretary of State Baker's expected trip to meet with Saddam Husayn.

[Margalit] We should mention, perhaps, that the Munich Conference was the forum in which the superpowers sold Czechoslovakia to Hitler. Please, proceed.

[Ne'eman] My impression is that, if this move is made, we will be prime candidates for the role of Czechoslovakia, and this is what I think we must prevent. This is the reason I urged the government to oppose this move, to the extent that it depends on us.

The problem is this: It is not up to us to decide whether the United States will fight for the liberation of Kuwait, it is the business of the United States and of the U.S. President and Congress. It is not our business. They can decide whether to allow Kuwait to remain Iraqi or not. However, they have now embarked on the path of dialogue, of attempts to persuade Saddam Husayn, and I fear the new dynamics. In this case, we are Saddam Husayn's candidates for the part of ladder to enable him get out of the high tree he has climbed.

[Margalit] Excuse me, Minister Ne'eman, but the Americans have stated plainly that they will not allow Saddam Husayn to place what they call the Palestinian issue on the Kuwaiti negotiating table. And as I have just heard on the radio news, Secretary Baker has explained to Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi that there is no change in U.S. policy.

[Ne'eman] I hope this is true. My apprehension arises from the new dynamics which start with talks. Why has President Bush launched this initiative? Because of the domestic criticism and the unwillingness to fight, he wanted to demonstrate that he was ready to take every possible step before launching actual war.

[Margalit] But there is no call to criticize Bush if the American people do not want to fight.

[Ne'eman] Right. If they did not want to fight, they could have given up the effort to extricate Kuwait. This would not have mattered to us, we were in this region even before the Kuwait story. Saddam promised to burn half of Israel before he invaded Kuwait, and no one offered us any help then, and no one came to our rescue. At worst, we will remain on our own in our confrontation with Saddam Husayn; we have no complaints on this issue.

[Margalit] We may be displeased, but can we influence U.S. policy?

[Ne'eman] Just a minute. The argument is that if the United States develops a dialogue amid pressures to avoid war while aiming nevertheless at rescuing Kuwait or part of Kuwait, the price one can reasonably expect is pressure on Israel. Saddam Husayn said so at once: The first thing he will demand is that Iraq be granted some achievement on the Israeli-Arab relations front.

[Margalit] Yes, this is clear. But can we influence the Americans to stay away from Baghdad?

[Ne'eman] We can create—or rather stimulate and encourage—powers in the United States that would oppose this. Kissinger, for instance, has already voiced a call which is rather similar to what we are saying here.

[Margalit] But I have understood from your remarks that the prime minister and the foreign minister hold opinions different from yours.

[Ne'eman] They do believe in and accept the stands of President Bush and Secretary of State Baker, and they rely on the United States. Like Kissinger, I myself feel apprehensive in this case that the dynamics are likely to be adverse to our interests. Therefore, we must create a counterpressure, in which case even if Baker goes to Baghdad, he will not enter a dialogue which can lead to dangerous results.

[Margalit] Minister Ne'eman, thank you very much.

Shamir on Bush Initiative, Other Issues

TA0212175590 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Shlomo Ganor; date and place not given; in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Ganor] Mr. Prime Minister, this morning we witnessed another instance of terrorist activity against a bus full of passengers. Is domestic security under control?

[Shamir] It is, in fact, under control, although repeated attempts are being made to harm security and to cause ferment. It is a fact that our citizens stand up against those acts, and I think the phenomenon will disappear.

[Ganor] Some Knesset members even suggested that the perpetrators of these terrorist deeds be deported.

[Shamir] Different ideas are raised, and they can be understood; however, I assume we will take all necessary means to put an end to the violence.

[Ganor] Mr. Shamir, if we can address the Gulf issue for a moment: How do you view President Bush's initiative to attain a dialogue with Iraq?

[Shamir] Well, I understand that President Bush, whose goal is to achieve the implementation of the Security Council resolution, wishes to find the most appropriate ways to do it. The way he has chosen is one way to achieve that goal.

[Ganor] Is there no danger that linkage [previous word in English] between the Gulf issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict will be created during the talks expected to be held between the United States and Iraq?

[Shamir] When President Bush brought forward this initiative, he said plainly that he objects to any such linkage, that these are two totally separate issues.

[Ganor] Mr. Shamir, was Israel in on the secret of the U.S. decision to take an initiative vis-a-vis Iraq?

[Shamir] We were not in on the secret of that decision, and I believe that very few people were aware of it. The President said it was his personal decision, and we rely on his ability to make decisions.

[Ganor] Does the new situation oblige Israel to change its low-profile policy?

[Shamir] Not at all. It does not oblige us to make any change. I believe that we are currently operating on that issue in complete accord with the United States.

[Ganor] How would you, Mr. Prime Minister, like the Gulf crisis to be solved?

[Shamir] First, I would like it to end because it poses an obstacle to many processes that we would like to see progress.

[Ganor] Such as?

[Shamir] For instance, the peace process.

[Ganor] But you say that you will not be taking new ideas with you to Washington.

[Shamir] I did not say that, somebody said that in my name. I never said that. I have several ideas. I do not know if this is the right time to launch the ideas since the current situation before the [Gulf] crisis is solved is not the best time to come out with such new ideas. The right time, however, will come.

[Ganor] When will that be?

[Shamir] I suppose we will start now, but the main effort will be after the crisis is behind us.

[Ganor] Is the basis for your new ideas the peace initiative of 18 months ago?

[Shamir] Certainly, we stick to that initiative, just as we remain loyal to the Camp David accords, and that is the correct path to take. [passage omitted]

Officials Say U.S. Gulf Policy Unchanged

TA0212055090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] People in the prime minister's bureau this morning expressed their opinion that the U.S. policy in connection with the Gulf crisis has not changed and that it is still interested in obtaining the same goals, as far as Iraq is concerned, which have motivated it since the outbreak of the crisis. Beyond these statements, senior ministers in Jerusalem have taken a vow of secrecy and refused to comment.

Minister Yuval Ne'eman said last night that there is no doubt that the crisis that will be reached between Washington and Baghdad would be at Israel's expense. He believes the government must prepare to face tremendous pressure from the United States and the Western countries.

Even if Likud ministers share Ne'eman's fears, they are not prepared to state as much for the record.

It should be pointed out that Prime Minister Shamir told U.S. congressmen as far back as Thursday that an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait is insufficient; it is necessary to remove Iraq's future potential threat to its neighbors.

Foreign Minister David Levi also talked about the enormous and lethal weapon arsenal that might be left in the hands of Saddam Husayn at the end of the current crisis, which will then be directed against Israel. If Saddam Husayn emerges from this crisis still in control of his weapons arsenal, he will continue to constitute a constant threat to the region and to the world economy, Levi said last week. [passage omitted]

Netanyahu Insists on Iraqi Disarmament

TA0312115390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has warned that unless Iraq is stripped of its chemical and other nonconventional weapons, the threat to the entire region will remain. In an interview with Jack Katzenell, Netanyahu said he accepts the assurances of Secretary Baker and Vice President Quayle that the United States will not permit any linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Israel-Arab conflict. It is true, Netanyahu conceded, that Israel was not consulted before President Bush issued his invitation to Iraq, but the entire world was taken by surprise, not just Israel.

[Begin recording] [Netanyahu] We were informed by the United States in a detailed memorandum from Secretary Baker to the foreign minister on the reasoning behind it and the purposes of this action, and as I say, if the United States adheres to its stated policy, we in Israel will be satisfied.

[Katzenell] There is a deeper skepticism in the mind of, for example, Professor Ne'eman. The feeling is that any agreement which is reached at the end of these negotiations, after all the concessions, even on both sides, has to be at Israel's expense. Isn't this at the back of your mind too?

[Netanyahu] If such an agreement were to take place, this would be at the expense of everyone, not at the expense of Israel alone, because it would allow Iraq essentially to escape the consequences of its aggression. I think the United States is well aware of it. We have heard the assurances of Vice President Quayle, and we are sure that the United States understands the need to keep the pressure on Iraq and not allow Iraq to put the pressure on anyone else.

[Katzenell] So even if Iraq withdraws from Kuwait, for Israel and, in your view, for the entire Middle East, the basic problem will still remain?

[Netanyahu] There is a problem that lingers that I know from my own conversations with American diplomats is very much on their mind as well, and that is the problem of the nonconventional weapons and missiles in Iraq. This is a regime that has used weapons like gas and like rockets, used it illegally on open cities, and it may very well use it in the future. [sentence as heard] Any solution to the Iraq crisis must bring about the disarmament of Iraq from these tools of destruction. [end recording]

Phased Autonomy, Gaza Withdrawal Considered

TA0212085690 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 2 Dec 90 pp 1, 6

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[Text] Israel is contemplating implementing unilateral autonomy in the Gaza Strip. It will raise this proposal before the U.S. team for the promotion of peace headed by the State Department's Dennis Ross, who is expected in Israel in approximately three weeks.

A secret plan offering phased autonomy for the Arab residents of the Gaza Strip is currently under examination in the political offices in Jerusalem. The prime minister may raise his plan in his meeting with President Bush in Washington.

Senior working teams in Jerusalem have been working on a plan for a phased Israeli withdrawal from the Strip for quite some time now. It involves autonomy and self-administration for the local residents after elections, meanwhile granting a special status to the Jewish settlers who would prefer to continue to live in the Strip.

The plan is based on the unity government's peace initiative, but unlike the way the unity government handled the initiative, the incumbent government plans to apply it only to the Gaza Strip. The results in the Gaza Strip will determine whether or not the plan will be extended to include the West Bank as well.

According to the plan, after the elections Israel will withdraw from the population centers and the elected Arab representation will manage everyday life, with the exception of foreign and security affairs. In the end, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will stage a nearly complete withdrawal from the Strip, although it will retain control over the main traffic axes. The plan has met with a lot of opposition.

Deputy Foreign Minister Netanyahu returned to Israel on Friday from talks in Washington, in the course of which he conferred with senior State Department officials, including Lawrence Eagleburger. Netanyahu reported to Shamir about the talks two days ago.

Four Ramat Gan Bus Passengers Stabbed by 'Arabs'

TA0212094690 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] A passenger on bus No. 66 in Ramat Gan sustained critical injuries and another three sustained slight to serious injuries when three Arabs on board the same bus stabbed them. One of the Arab assailants was killed by shots fired by a police bomb disposal expert. The two others were wounded.

One Victim Dies

TA0212103890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] One of the Jewish passengers on bus No. 66 has died of his wounds. The man is a 24-year-old resident of the central part of Israel. The three others who were wounded in the same attack have just been wheeled out of the operating room at Beilinson Hospital in Petah Tiqva. All three are suffering slight to moderate injuries. This was reported by the hospital authorities.

Details of Attack, Political Reactions

TA0212115790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Our correspondent reports details of the stabbing incident: Three passengers from 'Azzun near Qalqilyah got on the Dan Company No. 66 bus traveling from Petah Tiqva to Tel Aviv. At Modi'in Junction they pulled out knives, and, shouting God is great [preceding three words in Arabic], began to attack the passengers. The driver halted, opened the doors, and the passengers fled. The driver threatened the three with a gun in his possession. A Border Police officer who passed by noticed what was happening, got on the bus, and aimed an Uzi submachine gun at the terrorists. One of the terrorists got up and assaulted the officer, slightly injuring him with a knife. The officer shot and killed him. The two other terrorists sustained slight injuries.

Reactions in the political establishment following the attack: Yehoshu'a Matza, the chairman of the Knesset Internal Affairs Committee, calls on the government to make it clear to residents of the territories that anyone who engages in terrorist activity will be deported to Jordan together with his family. Mikha Goldman, a fellow member on the same committee, demands that the police commissioner and internal security elements be summoned to the committee to discuss measures to be taken in light of this morning's attack. Tzahi Hanegbi of the Likud submitted an urgent motion to the Knesset's agenda in which he called for the institution of an expulsion policy toward anyone who is found guilty of security offenses.

MAPAM [United Workers Party] says that the continued bloodshed constitutes an attack on innocent people and is intolerable. Nevertheless, it warns against acts of revenge and calls for continuing the political process. MAPAM also submitted an urgent motion to the Knesset's agenda.

Shinuy says that terrorism pushes peace farther away and hampers the Palestinian people's attempts to realize their goals.

Tehiya says that the Cabinet must issue an injunction that will prevent the departure of Arabs from Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza from areas controlled by the military government unless by special permit. Tehiya has

launched an information and persuasion campaign among employers to prefer to hire new immigrants and the unemployed.

Attack Linked to Fundamentalism

TA0212133890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 2 Dec 90

[Text] The prime minister's spokesman, Avi Pazner, linked the Bene Beraq attack to the Gulf crisis and what he described as a wave of Islamic fundamentalism. Pazner was confident, however, that Israel would overcome this wave of terrorism as it had overcome similar problems in the past.

[Begin Pazner recording] What happened this morning is another result of the violent incitement among the Arabs towards fundamentalism and extremism. This has been going on since the beginning of the crisis in the Gulf, and Israel is facing wave upon wave of terrorist attacks. We have no doubt whatsoever that we will be able to put that wave down, like we have done so many times in the past. [end recording]

Fatah Activists Arrested

TA0312100590 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] More than 10 senior Fatah activists were arrested this morning in the Tulkarm area in an operation conducted by the security forces and the Shin Bet. Dr. (Sabit Sabit), a very senior organization activist in the Tulkarm and Nabulus vicinity, was among those arrested.

Last night and this morning, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] sealed the homes of the three Arabs who perpetrated yesterday's attack on Bus 66 in Ramat Gan. The move was an immediate measure that does not entail the right to appeal to the High Court of Justice. The homes of Muhammad Suwaylihah and Husni Suwaylihah, both aged 17 and from the village of 'Azmut [as heard] in the Nabulus area, were sealed, as was the home of Jasir Duwaykat from the village of (Araq 'Abbayah), who was gunned down by the police bomb disposal expert.

The IDF spokesman has told Udi Segal, our correspondent in the territories, that an initial investigation indicates that the three had originally planned to stage an attack in Nabulus, but since this plan did not materialize, they purchased three knives in Nabulus for 20 dinars and decided to travel to Tel Aviv to kill Jews.

Udi Segal adds that in Qalqilyah today Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] declared a commercial strike to protest the death yesterday of the terrorist from the village of 'Azmut in the Nabulus area.

Last night the security forces also apprehended an Arab youth from the village of al-'Awja near Kibbutz Na'aran in the Jordan Rift Valley as he was attempting to stab the guard at the entrance to the kibbutz. The guard spotted the Arab youth, who was armed with a knife, at around 2200 [2000 GMT]. Our correspondent 'Ido Baum reports that the guard asked the suspect what he was doing and aimed his weapon at him. At that point the suspect dropped the knife. The security forces are questioning the Arab now.

Shamir on Incident

TA0312122890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] In reaction to the attack in Bene Beraq, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that this is not a nation-versus-nation war, but rather a war waged against us by criminals. He averred that he does not remember any war of liberation waged with knives. This is a unique phenomenon, he said, which is also the Arabs' weak spot.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that the prime minister made these remarks in a meeting with U.S. Senator Hatch. Mr. Shamir stressed that the Arabs will achieve nothing through the wielding of knives.

Referring to the Gulf crisis, the prime minister said that the world must show no tolerance for Saddam Husayn's aggression. He expressed the hope that when the Gulf crisis is over, a new situation will be created in the region that will allow a settlement of other Middle East conflicts as well.

New Missile Ship Launched

NC0312084090 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0730 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] A new advanced missile ship [Safinah Jadidah wa mutawwarah hamilah li al-Sawarikh] of the (Sa'r-4) type, designed and built in the Haifa shipyards, has been launched to sea.

Our correspondent Shafi Mansur reports that this ship can carry a helicopter or a drone and 32 surface-to-surface (Barak-type) missile launchers.

The ship, christened (Muhayt), will be handed over to the Israeli Navy at the beginning of next year.

Our correspondent has learned that tests conducted on the ship prove its performance ability.

Peres Reportedly Removed 'London Agreement' Files

TA0212121890 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 2 Dec 90 p 1

[Report from Jerusalem by the political correspondent]

[Text] The files that dealt with the London agreement reached between then Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and King Husayn have vanished from the Foreign Ministry archives. It turned out that Mr. Peres had instructed that they be removed from the Foreign Ministry as soon as he left for another job.

The computer data on the matter has also been deleted.

Mr. Peres, who was asked about the files' whereabouts, responded that he did not take them home but transferred them to a higher security archive in the hope that the details would not be leaked to the press.

The Foreign Ministry has complained about the absence of these files, which are needed when officers wish to study the details of the accord for political activity.

It should be noted that only very seldom do foreign ministers take political files from the Ministry archives with them when leaving their post, particularly when they are personal files [sentence as published]. The London accord file, however, is not considered a personal file.

Labor 'Doves' Withdraw Proposal on PLO Talks

TA0212101890 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Dec 90 p 8

[Report by political correspondent Sarah Honig]

[Text] Labor's doves on Friday gave up their much-touted proposal to revise the party platform clause against negotiations with the PLO.

After party chairman Shim'on Peres lambasted them for suggesting such an option at a time of national crisis, the doves, led by MK [Knesset Member] Yosi Beilin and Ya'el Dayan, did not put up a fight.

"We are simply not going to negotiate with the PLO and 'Arafat, who happens to be so friendly now with Saddam Husayn," said Peres, the opening speaker at a gathering sponsored by the doves in Bet Berl.

"We had no dealings with the PLO in the past and we certainly are not about to engage in any now against the background of the Saddam-'Arafat threats against Israel. Even the U.S. has discontinued its dialogue with the PLO."

The assembled Labor doves dared not resist after that, but took heart from Peres's observation that pushing the Arabs into a corner would only cause greater despair.

Peres went on to make some dire predictions for the region "in the event that the Shamir government stays in power for a few more years."

[An ITIM report on page A3 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 2 December on the same meeting adds that Peres predicted that "the next war will be over water, not territories," and that "Israel will receive more money for the desalination of water than for any other project." On the Gulf crisis, Peres averred that it will "end in battle, not a compromise, because the problem is not the invasion of Kuwait but Saddam Husayn's madness." He believes that "even if he restores Kuwait, Saddam Husayn will continue to develop weapons and the danger will not pass."

[Reporting on Peres' stated opposition to talks with the PLO, HA'ARETZ adds that "Peres said: 'We do not talk to the PLO because it is a violent organization. The situation is like a basket filled with eggs and rocks. No matter how many eggs there are, it is the rocks that determine the size of the basket,' Peres said."]

129th Soldier Jailed for Refusing Duty in Territories

TA0212094190 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Dec 90 P 8

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[Text] Maj. (res.) Alon Bantana, 27, was sentenced to 30 days in jail late last week for refusing to serve in the West Bank, the Yesh Gvul [There Is A Limit] movement said. Bantana, a graduate chemistry student in Jerusalem, commands an armored unit. He is the 15th officer and 129th soldier to be jailed for refusing to serve in the territories.

Reaction Positive to U.S.-Iraq Talks Plan

Foreign Minister Comments

JN3011192990 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1906 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has welcomed U.S. President George Bush's offer to start high level negotiations on the Gulf crisis. In a statement to AFP, al-Qasim declared that Jordan views as positive Bush's offer to open a dialogue, for which, he said, Jordan has been appealing. He added that the dialogue will open an opportunity for a solution and will refresh hope that the world may be spared a disaster.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister recalled Jordan's principled position on the crisis. He added that Jordan has been opposing the use of force and making every effort to prevent the use of force. He said that His Majesty King Husayn has continued his endeavors to give the peaceful option the necessary support and time. Al-Qasim then said he hoped that the expected dialogue, should it take place, will lead to an honorable settlement that will reconcile the interests of all parties.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman

JN0112163190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1607 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] A Jordanian Foreign Ministry spokesman has welcomed Iraq's consent to initiate a dialogue with the United States on the Gulf crisis. He said the decision falls in with the Iraqi leadership's call for an in-depth dialogue among the parties concerned, and that it should serve to deflect the risks of military escalation and confrontation and create the right climate conducive to permanent peace in the Middle East, which sorely needs security and stability.

The spokesman said he hoped the beginning of dialogue between Baghdad and Washington would mark a victory for peace advocates and a setback for the advocates of the use of force.

British TV Interviews Hasan

JN0112190890 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Interview with Crown Prince Hasan by an unidentified correspondent of the British World Television Network, WTN, in Amman on 1 December—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Hasan] ...and further time for further deployment of forces on the ground. And, at the same time, let us hope when President Bush calls for the full implementation of Resolution 660 that that means not only resulting in the unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait, but also in direct negotiations between the two parties to the original dispute, Iraq and Kuwait, and the role for the Arab League.

[WTN] So how optimistic are you about the possibility of averting war now?

[Hasan] As things stand, let us hope that the next six weeks could be well employed to avert the possibility of war. As someone said the other day: If one tenth of one percent of the energy and effort that has been placed in building up the war machine could have been invested in diplomacy, I'm sure that a solution would have been found, and this last chance resolution certainly offers that possibility, and the invitation is in that sense.

[WTN] I mean, do you feel that what Bush has just said, do you think, do you think it is a real initiative, or do you think it's a ploy of some sort?

[Hasan] Well, both possibilities exist. The spectacle of the Iraqi foreign minister meeting with the President of the United States is something that we all welcome. But I hope there is more behind the scenes. And, certainly if the Iraqi foreign minister is going to meet with the President in the presence of Arab envoys from the Gulf, from the alliance as President Bush put it in the interview, it's—I wonder really is it going to be a possibility for discussion, is it going to be a more generalized meeting for press purposes. We are living, as you know, between war and peace, and the possibility of a devastating war at that, it does not have to be a long war to be a bloody one, as one writer observed recently. And, I think that those three elements of the dispute—the islands, the oil, and indeed the reparations which is a new issue that has just come up, the international waterways—these are issues to be discussed by Kuwait and Iraq as specified by Paragraph Three of Resolution 660. And I hope that they get round to that.

[WTN] How do you think Saddam will react to this?

[Hasan] I would imagine that the Iraqis will be consistent with their policies of a readiness for dialogue. I noticed President Bush's wording was very careful yesterday. It has to result in—the final result has to be withdrawal from Kuwait, unconditional withdrawal as called for by Resolution 660. But, again, I keep reminding of Paragraph Three of 660 which calls for immediate discussions between Kuwait and Iraq and the role for the Arab League. So we have to remember the original dispute. It is not a dispute between Baghdad and Washington. It is a dispute of one Arab state against another. One Arab state that has occupied and annexed a sovereign Arab state, and this issue has to be resolved within the region if wounds are to be healed.

[WTN] But they both have uncompromising positions right now. What do you think they can possibly talk about?

[Hasan] This is my worry, the spectacle of a meeting of the President of the United States flanked by envoys from the Gulf with the Iraqi foreign minister. I hope it's not just for the record, not just to say to the American people and U.S. Congress: I've tried that last mile for peace. And, I think this is a time for creativity. And,

we've said very clearly that we support unconditional withdrawal in principle and in practice. However, the withdrawal has to lead to an understanding and that can only be achieved by the original parties to the dispute, by Iraq and by Kuwait, and clearly by Saudi Arabia. So, for the time being, I am a little bit worried about what form is going to be in these meetings and where they are going to lead.

[WTN] Do you think that the possibility is that they will—the United States may become some sort of a go-between between the Kuwaitis and the Iraqis?

[Hasan] That is a possibility. The United States obviously has a very clear say in the security of the Gulf region, and I would hope the United States would provide the incentive, that if the Iraqis contemplate withdrawal within the context of the August 12th statement that the United States will be able to offer that element of no hostility. As you recall, the insistence of many in the States that the new strategy against the possibility of a country possessing nuclear weapons, as THE NEW SCIENTIST put it, is called war is rather alarming for us all because, clearly, you cannot kill the will to develop these weapons in the Arab world just by initiating further hostilities, in this event, into Iraqi territory. So, there is a facilitating role clearly for the United States in this between Arab and Arab possibly, but I would've preferred to have seen the solution directly between Arabs in the first instant.

[WTN] How—let's—when the Arab countries keep saying that it's an Arab problem, can Arabs solve it. If the foreign European powers, American powers, were not involved, how could the Arabs solve this problem?

[Hasan] Well, within the context of the international legitimacy. Resolution 660 calls for unconditional withdrawal. Resolution 660 also calls for immediate discussions between Iraq and Kuwait. And, it seems to me that the shift has been from an Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute to an Iraqi-Gulf dispute, and subsequently, to an Iraqi-United States dispute, although, of course, the United States is the de facto head of a multinational force presence. The resolution itself does not refer to any central authority, no point of referral. The military staff committee suggested by the Soviet Union a few weeks ago has not materialized, and the unified command has not materialized. The United States is not the head of a multinational force in the form of the Korean multinational force headed by General MacArthur. So things are a little bit loose at the present time. How could they could solve the problems? I think that if guarantees of no-hostility were offered within the United Nations Security Council resolutions, every possibility of discussion exists between the Arabs themselves.

[WTN] But, how do you see the scenario if, you know, if both sides do take—do become compromising? Do you see a scenario of peace, of averting—of an aversion of war?

[Hasan] I would imagine that, A) An agreement on the principle of withdrawal, which is still on the table as offered by the Iraqis has to evolve; B) Clearly, the question of hostages has finally to be settled, and I think that the Iraqi offers in the past have been rejected as propaganda too swiftly; C) I think the question of the inter-Arab debate, that is to say the Iraqi-Kuwaiti discussions, has to be put on the table, because, clearly, even if the withdrawal takes place from Kuwait and no solution is found between Iraq and Kuwait, we will be back to the same kind of hostility in a very short period of time.

[WTN] Do you see a possibility, assuming the Kuwaitis and the Iraqis talk—how do you see a possibility of compromising, working out, there in practical terms?

[Hasan] I think the mechanics are up to them. But, if the three component parts are the islands and the waterways, and there I don't see that it is impossible to conceive of all waterways in that region as international waterways—and this is in my personal view. And, secondly, the question of oil, which, after all, is a paramount issue in this whole crisis, and I don't see the impossibility of agreeing on setting oil prices and talking about quotas. Thirdly, the question of territoriality, and 660 clearly makes it possible for referral to international bodies, including the Arab League. These three issues obviously don't share the same importance or numerical value for the parties, for Iraq and Kuwait. How they're discussed, in what sequence they're discussed, and which emphasis is up to Iraq and Kuwait. And, this obviously has to be an issue that is engaged between these two states, between these two sovereign entities and not over their heads, as it were, by an outside power, however influential it is in the world.

[WTN] So, do you think that Iraq actually has a minimum position which it would accept?

[Hasan] When you get into discussions and negotiations of a dispute, clearly there has to be a minimal and a maximal position. It's not for me to say what the Iraqi or Kuwaiti positions are, but I'd just like to remind here that there is a dispute that triggered all of this off. Everyone talks about the Gulf crisis, but nobody looks at the dispute between Iraq and Kuwait, and this is, I think, what needs to be done during the next six weeks to avert the possibility of war.

[WTN] Do you think these talks between the United States and Iraq—do you think they will be discussing other problems in the Middle East, precisely, the Palestinian problem? Do you think that will be part of the discussion?

[Hasan] I haven't seen any indication of that in anything that has been said up-front to date. But, as far as the Palestinian problem, and particularly since the 8th of October killings in Jerusalem, killings of Palestinian Arabs, we have noticed that there has been a certain slowing down of the United Nations initiative to send an envoy to the occupied territories. My view is that the

Palestinian question stands up on its own merits. And that the question of linkage, as suggested by Iraq, obviates that the time has come really to recognize the merits of the oldest standing extant case of conflict and self-determination in this region. But, having said that, I don't think that one dilutes the question of the Gulf by referring to Palestine. I think it fortifies the same international principle—occupation should not pay, that it is illegal, and it should be reversed, should come sequentially, one after the other. So let's hope that we can see a salutary peaceful outcome of the Iraq-Kuwait dispute so that this principle can be applied in Palestine.

[WTN] Do you see a loosening of ties between the United States and Israel since the al-Aqsa Mosque killings?

[Hasan] Well, I think that ties are invested in bilateralism and in special interests between countries, whether Israel and the United States, Saudi Arabia and the United States, Egypt and the United States, or even my country for that matter and the United States. My hope is that we could arrive at a point where the United States looks at the region as a region rather than just one on one relationships that go hot or cold according to a particular crisis, as indeed they've certainly cooled towards my country during these last few weeks.

[WTN] Do you see this present Gulf crisis, do you see it as possibly bringing a tension to the area and actually making a stronger focus on the Palestinian-Israeli problem? Do you see that happening, that this may snowball into something larger than just the Gulf crisis?

[Hasan] Very much so. I am so enthusiastic about that. I think that the possibility of a conference on security and cooperation in the Middle East region is entided [as heard] by the Gulf crisis. And, when the United States speaks of institutional deterrence or security structures, my hope is that it is not a reference to a military presence or a militarizing of the region, God knows we have enough of that as it is. But, rather, to a process of three route maps: A political route map; an economic route map, given the inequalities that exist in the region; and a weapons of mass destruction route map, where diplomatic and political pressures ought to bear on all in the region to reduce, drastically reduce military expenditure.

[WTN] I noticed there is a tourist map produced here in Jordan, where Jordan includes only the West Bank and Gaza and Israel is not mentioned, or is not part of—is that a fairly new stand for Jordan? Do you see—how would Jordan like the Palestinian problem to be resolved?

[Hasan] Well, if it was a tourist map, we are not promoting tourism to Israel clearly. But I like to make it very clear that as far as the entrepreneurial skills of people of this region—Palestinians, Lebanese, Jordanians, or Israelis for that matter—in the event of peace and, hopefully, of justice in this Palestinian-Arab conflict [as heard] one could easily envisage a commonwealth of enterprising peoples in the north of the Peninsula. And this has been made very clear in the past when we tried over 23 years to promote a negotiated settlement. But the bitterness today, particularly the polarization of religious extremes, which seems to be almost taking over from a conflict of sovereign states, is very, very worrying. And, I think that, unless political and diplomatic action is taken soon, it will be very difficult to retrace the original threat of the argument, particularly with the changes taking place in the occupied territories so swiftly, and of course the question of further migration into the occupied territories, which Mr. Shamir touched on in his last remarks.

[WTN] I think we can't get any deeper into the Palestinian problem. Just one last question on this initiative by Mr. Bush, did Jordan have any role in it at all?

[Hasan] I don't think any direct role that I am aware of. But, certainly, it is an indication of everything that we've stood for since the second of August, and indeed before the second of August. We've always believed in negotiated settlement, and not least of all between two Arab countries. So I hope that if, in some small way, we represent a peace lobby that we've had some effect in this statement by the President which this country welcomes.

[WTN] So, there's been no direct behind-the-scenes...

[Hasan, interrupting] Well, there is continuing contact, but I can't obviously claim credit for what is a U.S. initiative.

[WTN] O.K. Well, thank you very much.

[Hasan] Thank you very much indeed.

Amman Radio Interviews Hasan

JN0112143190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Interview with Crown Prince Hasan by Ibrahim Shahzadah on 1 December in Amman—recorded]

[Text] [Shahzadah] Your Highness, do you see the U.S. President's proposal to hold a dialogue with Iraq as a serious transformation in policy?

[Hasan] I believe that there is impartiality in the position of all those who called for a political solution from the beginning of the crisis, especially if we note the large number of voices that have recently joined efforts, especially in the U.S. Congress and among the American people. They asked one essential question on whether all chances for peace had been exhausted. I believe the answer was clear, especially from the members of the Security Council. Therefore, we must be cautiously optimistic at this stage in particular so that the proposed dialogue can be a dialogue about the reasons for the dispute—the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute, the inter-Arab dispute—and not another to win time. In fact, we are now seeing 300 American planes entering the region and hundreds of thousands of soldiers. The forces operating in the United States itself are now four brigades [words indistinct] of the regular army.

[Shahzadah] What are the chances that such a dialogue will end in a peaceful solution?

[Hasan] If there is a definite desire among the parties to the dispute and.... [changes thought] I remind everyone once again that the Iraqi proposal has been clear since 12 August in that Iraq seeks a principled dialogue to solve the Gulf crisis with a withdrawal from Kuwait in return for which it gets guarantees on non-aggression. I believe that the other regional issues, the most important of which is the Palestine question, could be discussed within the framework of this international attention to the Middle East region instead of the trend, especially in the past few months, to build up relations with individual countries in the Middle East.

Yesterday's offer to receive the Iraqi foreign minister and send the U.S. secretary of state to Baghdad is a call to implement Resolution 660. Article 2 demands the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi forces and their return to their positions of 1 August; however, Article 3 also demands extensive dialogue and negotiations between Iraq and Kuwait. Here, I wish to remind that Article 3 also demands a role for the Arab League. When today we talk about an Arab solution, we are actually talking about Arab participation or contribution to Security Council Resolution 660. It is not logical for Iraqi-U.S. talks to take place in isolation from direct negotiations between the parties to the dispute, which are Iraq and Kuwait, as stipulated in the aforementioned resolution.

[Shahzadah] Sir, the U.S. proposal came right after Resolution 678, which calls for the use of force to solve the Gulf crisis. What is your explanation for this?

[Hasan] Force and military pressure should be a diplomatic move in another form or under another cover. This is what we have been saying since the crisis began. It seems to me that the U.S. President is being pressured, since the United States is the largest partner in the multinational forces, to exhaust all political means before using force. Naturally, also, the cost would be very high if the United States starts a war in the region. This is becoming gradually clearer, as the forces are being strengthened in the region. All these factors—the cost of the war, the political and economic pressures in a world entering a stage of stagnation and in a world searching for reconcilation within the framework of conferences held in the Helsinki spirit, the spirit of humanitarian cooperation, and the search for joint security—all these factors compel the U.S. President to provide the whole world with clear justification that he has exhausted all efforts toward peace. We believe that this initiative will get a responsible reaction from Iraq, especially since Iraq has always taken the initiative to seek a solution to the crisis through dialogue.

[Shahzadah] Since the beginning of the crisis, Jordan has appealed, and continues to appeal, for dialogue to end the crisis. The U.S. decision now falls into line with with the Jordanian appeal. Does this mean awareness of the catastrophe that would have taken place had war broken out?

[Hasan] I believe there has been impartiality in all we have called for and all that has been called for by all peace-loving parties in this world. Once again, it has become very clear that the crisis reached its climax in this final resolution, the step right before the eruption of war, God forbid, in this region. We hope that this conviction, or awareness as you called it, will be taken advantage of properly through constructive thinking and a creative policy toward peace in the remaining six weeks before the 15 January deadline.

[Shahzadah] We thank you, Crown Prince Hasan.

[Hasan] I thank you, my dear brother.

Information Minister Comments

JN0212210690 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din has described Iraq's acceptance of U.S. President George Bush's initiative as positive, and said Jordan welcomes this acceptance as it welcomed President Bush's initiative. He expressed belief that it is now time to initiate an intensive and in-depth dialogue on all the issues that preoccupy the volatile Middle East—a dialogue that opens the door to a march toward a comprehensive peace in the region.

In an interview with the Voice of America, Mr. 'Izz-al-Din expressed pride that Jordan, despite of all pressures, has never at any stage joined the voices calling for war, fight, or bloodshed on the Arabian Peninsula. Jordan has from the beginning called for a peaceful solution to the crisis, and we now feel very satisfied that things are moving toward dialogue, he said. He stressed that Jordan is ready to play any role it can to activate dialogue with a view to reaching a comprehensive solution to this suffocating crisis.

The information minister said the deadlock that characterized the crisis over the past few months would have led only to confrontation. Now that the door to negotiations and dialogue has been opened, no party is entitled to say what Iraq or the other sides want. He added: Every country has its declared policy, and Jordan declared its recognition of and adherence to international legitimacy, and said it should be achieved through peaceful means. He explained that as far as Jordan is concerned, peaceful means is defined as the establishment of a course of negotiation that will clearly lead to reassuring all parties, while taking their legitimate rights into consideration.

Mr. 'Izz-al-Din referred to warnings against war by former U.S. military officials which appeared during testimony before the concerned Congressional committee last week. He said those military officials know the dangers of the use of force and the possible number of victims in a destructive war. He added that various sectors of American society expressed their deep concern

when the United States moved from a defensive to an offensive position. He said those who are following developments on the U.S. scene feel the big change in the various U.S. public opinion circles, especially in Congress, among public workers, and very large sectors of the society. The majority in the United States show a lack of desire for subjecting the United States and the world to a new war. Mr. 'Izz al-Din said that former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's theory that opening a U.S. dialogue with Iraq makes room for Iraqi procrastination and consequently obstructs a solution and consolidates Iraq's presence in Kuwait represents the opinion of the minority that is calling for war, not the majority that is warning against it.

DFLP, Parties Welcome Talks

JN0312123590 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Dec 90 p 14

[Text] Amman—SAWT AL-SHA'B—The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has stated that the Gulf crisis cannot be resolved through military means and that a solution to the crisis can only be achieved through political means.

Reacting to Bush's decision to open a direct dialogue with Iraq, an official spokesman for the DFLP urged the Arab states opposed to the U.S. and Atlantic military buildup in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf to crystallize a political initiative to be proposed to the Soviet Union, China, and European states to push for a political solution in the Gulf and to halt the military escalation in the region.

The official spokesman demanded that all the region's issues be resolved simultaneously, headed by the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict, within an international conference under the supervision of the United Nations.

Meanwhile, the Jordanian Democratic People's Party expressed satisfaction that the U.S. Administration had finally succumbed and agreed to open a dialogue with Iraq. The party demanded a simultaneous resolution of the region's issues and without preconditions. This came in a statement by an official spokesman for the party yesterday. The spokesman warned that the United States may have taken this step merely as a formal and tactical response in order to absorb domestic and foreign pressures, especially since it came following a huge U.S. campaign to secure the sinful UN Security Council resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq and legitimizing aggression.

The official spokesman affirmed that any dialogue must take place without preconditions and that the United States should accept an in-depth discussion of the region's problems and crises resulting from the Zionist aggression.

The Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party considered Bush's statements regarding U.S. readiness to open a dialogue with Iraq as a victory for fraternal Iraq and its allies and a submission by the United States to Iraq's repeated calls.

In a statement issued yesterday, the party affirmed that laying preconditions and setting specific limits for the negotiations obstruct the serious trend toward a peaceful resolution of all problems of the region and defusing the war prospects in it. The statement noted that the U.S. Administration and Israel continue to be the only obstacles facing the international will and resolutions in this regard.

SAWT AL-SHA'B Editorial

JN0112121690 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Dec 90 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "Dialogue Is a Promoter of Peace and Pan-Arab Rights"]

[Text] At the eleventh hour, reason, along with national and pan-Arab rights triumphed. They had to triumph, because they are the logic of history, which always prevails over any other logic.

As we say this, we, along with the entire world, witness the magnitude of His Majesty King Husayn's victory yesterday when he saw the theory to which he dedicated four months of relentless efforts become reality and a program in which the international political mechanisms are taking part.

Since the first day of what has become the Gulf crisis, King Husayn's efforts focused on a major issue; namely, dialogue, and he was convinced, as the entire world became convinced yesterday, that dialogue, and only dialogue, can open the closed doors. The policy of closing bridges, adopting embargo and blockade rather than the language of reason, and blocking channels will only lead to terrible destruction whose price everyone will blindly and equally pay.

Yesterday was a new day in the history of the entire world, not only the history of the region. A few hours after adopting a UN Security Council resolution that permits using every means, including war, against Iraq, came the U.S. initiative to open dialogue with Iraq. It was a prelude to a new page and an end to four months of U.S. arrogance that foundered on the rock of Iraqi steadfastness, which is founded on a sincere desire for a just and comprehensive peace that guarantees all pan-Arab rights in the Gulf and Palestine.

Yesterday, the world decided to allow dialogue its full opportunity! That was a triumph for King Husayn, who raised this banner during the most critical and tense moments.

This was also a triumph for Saddam Husayn, who based his initiative on just and comprehensive peace. The United States refused to listen to that initiative and continued to refuse until it realized this was not the language with which it should deal with Iraq.

The pan-Arab feeling of the splendor of victory is magnificent! It is a victory for Iraqi power, King Husayn's logic, and of dialogue as the means to reach an understanding on safeguarding national rights and pan-Arab gains.

After four months of U.S. refusal to sit with Iraq and of insisting that dialogue should be preceded by withdrawal, the White House kneeled down yesterday and said: Yes! For the sake of preserving the remains of their personal arrogance, the U.S. decision to dispatch U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and invite Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz was accompanied with talk about making no compromises with regard to the foreign nationals and withdrawal.

If we examine the U.S. reservations and conditions closely, we see that they do not mean a great deal. As for the foreign nationals, Iraq had already promised to release them in less than four weeks. With regard to withdrawal from Kuwait, Iraq has already proposed this as part of a just and comprehensive solution of all regional issues, particularly the Palestine question. Thus, we can say that the dialogue proposed yesterday is the beginning of a new period of history for the entire region, since it gives peace the full chance to include Palestine and Lebanon in addition to the Gulf, within a solution mechanism that in the end can only be governed by logic and legitimacy.

Yesterday, the war option failed. Its failure was a victory for the entire Arab nation; especially the Arabian Gulf. The war that the U.S. President and defeated British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher advocated is a war that would engulf all achievements in the Gulf before it burned Baghdad and Basra. It is also a war that Washington and London wanted in order to do away with Saddam, who stands for pan-Arab ambition at its peak, and the Iraqi Army, which is the main asset of the just Palestine question and the steadfast bulwark facing the historical ambitions of some neighboring states.

The failure of the war option, and exchanging it with well-intentioned diplomacy, means for the Gulf states and the entire Arab nation a guarantee to preserve the nation's wealth from destruction and to maintain Iraqi power as a major guarantee of a future that can only be better.

Again, we say that peace triumphed through dialogue and that dialogue, regardless of its details, in the end guarantees legitimate pan-Arab rights as long as they are protected by Iraq's power and King Husayn's historic farsightedness.

SAWT AL-SHA'B Columnist

JN0112201490 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Dec 90 pp 16, 15

["Just a Word" column by Ahmad al-Dabbas: "The U.S. Embassy Moves and What Is Required on the Popular Level"]

[Text] When the U.S. Embassy engages in acts that contravene our country's national sovereignty and provoke our people's sentiments—something not unusual from the embassy of a country that has reached the height of enmity and conspiracy against our Arab nation—what is required is not just condemnation of the actions of the U.S. Embassy staff and not just a demand that the government take the necessary measures and use diplomacy to put a stop to these arrogant practices, thus turning over to the government the task of confronting and banning these activities although it is a fact that the government should take up its responsibilities in this regard. What is of equal importance in this regard is to see the masses remain vigilant and refrain from any dealings whatsoever with the embassy.

The task of the U.S. Embassy staff and that of those working under U.S. tutelage is not confined to monitoring our borders at the al-Ruwayshid checkpoint nor to obtaining information on the activities of the port of al-'Aqabah. Furthermore, the U.S. Embassy staff is not only concerned with the final destination of Jordan-bound imports. The task of the embassy staff goes beyond, conspiring against this homeland in a bid to breach its solid internal front and to distort positions and misrepresent facts. Hence, the U.S. Embassy's actions to attain these objectives are intertwined and go through numerous channels, particularly by one way or another contacting people belonging to various walks of life in the country.

Citizens and representatives of political, professional, and popular sectors can make the U.S. Embassy go around in a vicious circle. This would prevent the embassy from enjoying the benefit of any contacts or dealings that are not in line with Jordan's official or popular stance or that run against Jordan's pan-Arab position or support for fraternal Iraq in its battle and confrontation with the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic troops.

When democracy prevails and when the base of popular participation expands, every citizen becomes responsible. At such a time, it becomes imperative for each citizen to shoulder his responsibilities in defending the homeland and its sovereignty, and in confronting its internal and external enemies by demonstrating the highest degree of vigilance, as well as the highest sense of national and pan-Arab responsibility.

We have noted that some embassy staff have visited Jordanian cities and met one way or another with local council members, businessmen, and citizens. Banning such meetings is beyond the government's purview. Shall we then make act at the popular level to cut off these suspect activities within the borders of our country and thus thwart all their objectives, dimensions, and goals? This is achievable if everyone starts with himself and takes an initiative in this regard to confront these U.S. actions, just as deputy Faris al-Nabulsi did when he refused to meet the American ambassador at the latter's request because of the U.S. hostility against our nation.

This is what is required at the popular level. We should perform our own duties before we ask the government to do anything in this regard.

AL-RAY Editorial

JN0112100990 Amman AL-RA'Y Arabic
1 Dec 90 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "Is the Development in the U.S. Attitude Strategic or Tactical?"]

[Text] The President Bush's announcement of the U.S. Government's readiness to receive the Iraqi foreign minister in Washington and to dispatch the U.S. secretary of state to Baghdad to search for a peaceful settlement for the Gulf crisis, raises great interest. It is clear that President Bush's approach, as expressed in his address to the American people is a development in Washington's position. We hope that this development has a strategic perspective rather than just being a tactical performance. This means that the proposed meeting between the Iraqi foreign minister and the U.S. Administration, and that between the U.S. secretary of state and the Iraqi leadership ought to open prospects for sincere negotiations, and that it should not be limited to Washington warning Baghdad. Thus, we can say that a meeting to negotiate and not to warn would prove that the development made clear in President Bush's address is a strategic one.

Needless to say, fraternal Iraq has long expressed its readiness to enter into negotiations with the U.S. Administration to reach a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis. Iraq never abandoned this peaceful approach, even during the most difficult times when the drums of war were beaten in an unprecedented manner.

On the other hand, it should be remembered that the Gulf crisis might require more than two meetings; the one in Washington and the other in Baghdad, and consequently several meetings between the Iraqi and American sides might be required. Also, it should be remembered that the Iraqi position is not intransigent, but rather it calls for searching for the cherished peaceful solution of the crisis in an atmosphere of mutual respect. This call, no doubt, is supported by the international laws in force.

One can neither be infinitely optimistic, nor totally indifferent about the approach announced by President Bush yesterday. How the United States translates this approach will reveal its sincerity. We call on the U.S. Administration to translate this approach strategically. If Washington does so, then, no doubt, the Gulf crisis will find its way toward a peaceful solution. Thus, the U.S. President would spare the region unimaginable disasters and consequently spare his country and the world needless losses.

Again, we hope that reason will lead to a just and peaceful settlement of the crisis. We also hope that the expected Iraqi-U.S. meetings will open the prospect for a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

AL-RA'Y Columnist

JN0212172690 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
2 Dec 90 pp 20, 18

["Just an Opinion" column by Badr 'Abd-al-Haqq: "On Dialogue of War, Peace!!"]

[Text] Contrary to his style that has become known in addressing world public opinion and Iraqi public opinion in particular, and while launching his initiative on dialogue between Washington and Baghdad, U.S. President George Bush showed his ability to change colors according to the situation. Thus, while appearing on television Friday night, Bush's features and tone were calm, sedate, and wise to the extent that I personally was about to lose my ability to understand what was going on, and I wondered about the secret behind this abnormal change in the attitude of a reckless man who "for three months" daily appeared to be armed with threats of destruction and terrible things, and calls for sparking off a war that would spare nothing!!

Perhaps this sudden change in position from warmonger to man of peace raises fear and doubt, and calls for great awareness and awakening for fear of falling into a political or military trap that might be exposed at any moment!!

Bush's initiative (if it may be called thus) includes no new elements. The demands and conditions that the United States placed on Iraq from the first day of the crisis are still the same demands and conditions. The U.S. President was very careful to make this clear so that there would be no room for confusion. This means that beginning a dialogue between Washington and Baghdad does not mean making any U.S. concessions or showing any form of leniency. The Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, the return of al-Sabah family, and the continuation of the economic embargo on Iraq are issues that cannot be bargained over or discussed, and it is as if Tariq 'Aziz is being called upon to hear from Bush the same U.S. conditions—nothing more and nothing less!!

The U.S. "President's initiative" is only a complement to the recent UN Security Council resolution, which permits the United Nations (or the United States) to use force against Iraq. Consequently, there is no longer a need for any additional measures to force Iraq to implement all U.S. conditions. Only the final "touches" are left, and they have been accomplished through a series of bribes and donations which the "fraternal" Arab oil states have willingly extended to complete the international consensus to confront Iraq and destroy its military and economic power!!

Thus, as Iraq goes to the table of dialogue with the United States, it is fully aware that the outcome will achieve nothing new and will not open wide the door for peace. All that this dialogue can accomplish is to further

reveal and expose the aggression, and dispel any doubts that the final U.S. aim, which is covered by the fake UN Security Council resolutions and laws, is to first destroy Iraq; second, to humiliate the Arab nation through Iraq; and, third and final, to control Arab will and authority.

Despite this, we support the dialogue, even if it is to be a closed one. It is a great honor for Iraq to be the first to extend its hand to peace and the last to beat the drums of war!!

AL-RA'Y Editorial

JN0312101790 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
3 Dec 90 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "It Is an Iraqi Initiative and U.S. Response"]

[Text] It is not true that the United States offered a peace initiative and that fraternal Iraq in turn accepted it. What happened was that Baghdad, since the first day it entered Kuwait and since the beginning of the crisis, has been extending a hand for peace, affirming its desire for a political settlement and warning against Washington and its allies pushing matters to the point of no return. When Iraq declared its initiative on 12 August, declared the beginning of the withdrawal of its forces two days after entering Kuwait, and declared readiness to allow its foreign guests to travel if nonaggression guarantees are provided, it was offering one initiative after another, while Washington and its allies were replying to its initiatives with the assertion that an embargo is imposed on any talks or contacts with it before its full withdrawal from Kuwait. Moreover, the U.S. position went beyond this embargo to a clear declaration of all Washington's objectives, which call for destroying Iraq's military might, destroying its economic structure, and humiliating and dominating it. In addition, some U.S. sources did not conceal the U.S. decision to liquidate President Saddam Husayn.

What happened during the past few days was that the United States, faced with the American people's refusal to fight in defense of oil and undemocratic regimes, and in view of Iraq's assertion of its readiness to fight if this is imposed on it and its readiness for a fierce confrontation if Washington commits the fatal mistake, declared its response to the call of the Iraqis, all good people in the Arab nation, and of all peace-loving people and justice advocates and to what Iraq has continuously called for and asserted. What Iraq called for and asserted was that negotiations, not war, will achieve a settlement, spare all sides the catastrophe, and enable all parties to come to an agreement.

Washington responded to Iraq's call for peace after 12 U.S. resolutions which were issued by the UN Security Council through pressure, bribery, and extortion. Washington responded to this Iraqi call after sending over 400,000 U.S. troops and thousands of troops of other nationalities, and after it imposed an economic embargo on Iraq, which did not even allow medicines and medical supplies. Such a thing has not been done by the most tyrannical colonialist and racist forces in the darkest epochs of history. Therefore, the allegation that Iraq responded to a U.S. initiative is a distortion of the reality of the Iraqi position and an exposed attempt to beautify the ugly U.S. face. It was Iraq which initiated the call for peace and its hand remained extended in a vacuum. However, this hand was met with arrogance and threats, giving an opportunity for even the most impotent allies of the United States to brandish a thick stick in the face of Baghdad.

We are saying this while hoping that the U.S. response is the beginning of a real awareness of the disasters that a war may cause. The destructive results of such a war will affect the entire Arab nation, the American people, and regional and world peace, stability, and security. Whether Washington's response stems from a desire for peace or whether it is a ploy, it is reassuring that the Iraqis and their nation will know how to counter the ploy and their finger will be maintained on the trigger until matters are cleared.

AL-DUSTUR Editorial

JN0112103490 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
1 Dec 90 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "Maneuver or Sincere Intentions?"]

[Text] The U.S. President has surprised the world by his announcement breaking the U.S. adamant rejection of the principle of dialogue and negotiations with Iraq, which has always called for a balanced and simultaneous solution to the Gulf crisis and all the region's issues, especially the Palestinian problem.

President Bush announced his intention to invite the Iraqi foreign minister to Washington and offered to send his secretary of state to Baghdad to hold peace talks, confirming once again that he is monopolizing the political solution—a solution that he has prevented the Arabs from trying, despite the fact that they are better able to solve their own problems.

The announcement of the U.S. desire to hold dialogue with Iraq under the shadow of the UN Security Council Resolution 678, which allows the use of force against Iraq, must develop toward negotiations on a level commensurate with what is at stake for the United States and Iraq. This certainly calls for substantive U.S. concessions and not for repeating the old U.S. calls for submission, which Iraq will never accept.

Unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait means transferring U.S. troops to that country and seriously threatening Iraq from a dangerous and destructive position, thus leaving Iraq with the only option of rejecting it altogether.

Therefore, we offer these questions, which are based on conditions for pan-Arab security: What forces will replace the Iraqi forces, if they withdraw from Kuwait?

Will the policy of international hypocrisy and double standards continue with respect to the Palestinian Arab people's rights?

The whole world, especially Iraq, supports the principle of dialogue, which must not be an umbrella for aggression. It must be based on justice and the principle that international legitimacy should not be applied on a selective basis. The dialogue must avert the disaster, remove from Arab hearts the feeling of frustration, the feeling that they are being discriminated against, and stop the tendency of resorting to extremism to counter Israel's extremism.

Is this initiative based on bad intentions, or good intentions to reach a solution? This question is inseparable from Bush's declaration of his intention to invite Tariq 'Aziz to Washington and send Baker to Baghdad.

This question stems from the bitter experience of dealings with the United States, which protects Israel's belligerence and arrogantly opposes our hopes and aspirations for freedom, life, and progress. It is a question prompted by the world's debilitating experience with United States' foreign policy, which comes of out of the barrel of a gun and from a domineering and dictatorial position.

What raises doubt and suspicion is that the Bush statement shows that the U.S. aims have not changed. We are aware that the U.S. aims are not to "liberate" Kuwait but to strip Iraq of its power, which constitutes a real counterweigh to Israeli aggression. The aim is to control Arab oil and to dispose of it in accordance with the concept of vital, essential interests that view our oil as if it were Texas oil.

The Bush declaration also raises doubts by its reference to the aim behind inviting 'Aziz and sending Baker; namely, "exerting additional efforts for peace." We know that the U.S. Administration has hindered all peace efforts and contributed directly toward pushing the crisis to its present result when it arranged the Cairo summit as a trap, aborted the Jeddah meeting, and stonewalled the Arab solution, which was and still is capable of averting a sure disaster from the region and the entire world.

We hope that the U.S. initiative is based on an understanding of the facts of life and Arab power and is not merely a maneuver to absolve itself from blame of American families who are worried about their sons.

We hope that the fear of war and its abhorrent results, and not the desire for war, is the motive for the peace talks.

JORDAN TIMES Editorial

JN0112082690 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 Dec 90 p 4

[Editorial: "At Last, a Breakthough"]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush's offer to receive the Iraqi foreign minister and to send his secretary of state to Baghdad is the breakthrough that the world has needed all along to solve the Gulf crisis. Without such a courageous and historic decision taken by the U.S. president, there would have been but one way to go: devastating war and destruction and lasting instability and violence in this part of the world, especially in the aftermath of the adoption of Resolution 678 by the U.N. Security Council.

Right from the beginning, Baghdad insisted that it was ready for dialogue with the Americans and the Saudi Arabians in order to reach a political solution to the problem of Kuwait. Furthermore, President Saddam has stated very clearly that he is ready and willing to discuss all aspects of the Gulf situation, which also means withdrawal from Kuwait. But what the Iraqis would have never accepted is to leave in humiliation, without even the right to be heard by the countries of the alliance arrayed against them, let alone assurances against the destruction of their country under all other circumstances.

Fortunately, reason seems to have prevailed, and we now have a situation where the antagonists can sit together to try and hammer out a formula acceptable for everybody and satisfactory to all. And this is in essence what Jordan has always worked for and persisted in its efforts to achieve. Much work needs to be done of course in order to ensure that President Bush's step towards peace does not turn into a futile political exercise. But there is no question that Iraq will reciprocate the offer with all the goodwill needed to make progress—and quickly—towards not only solving the Gulf crisis but also tackling the range of other problems in the region on top of which lies the Palestinian problem.

The Bush administration, for its part, needs to do its share to understand more deeply the frustrations and aspirations of Arabs and to do what is necessary to address them. We are a nation that yearns for peace, provided it is just, and friendship with other peoples and nations, as long as it is based on mutual respect and interests. Nobody amongst us wants to continue to live in strife and struggle, and we certainly do not need to add to the list of our enemies.

By his offer, Mr. Bush has pushed the door wide open for himself to enter history as a great U.S. president. He will only be great if there is a political solution to the Gulf crisis.

Kuwaiti Popular Delegation on Official Visit

Delegation Arrives

JN0112213390 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2110 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] The Kuwaiti popular delegation arrived in Amman this evening on a visit to Jordan. The delegation is headed by Ahmad al-Saqqaf, head of the Kuwaiti Writers Association, and is made up of 'Abd-al-Baqi al-Nuri, member of the former Kuwaiti Parliament; Muhammad Musa'id al-Salih, chairman of the board of directors of the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN; Sa'ud

al-'Usaymi, former minister of state for foreign affairs; and Muhammad al-Saqr, editor in chief of the newspaper AL-QABAS.

During the visit which will last for several days, the Kuwaiti popular delegation will meet officials and popular figures. The Kuwaiti delegation was received at the airport by Foreign Ministry officials and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Amman.

To Explain Gulf Position

JN0212090090 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 2 Dec 90 p 15

[Excerpt] Amman—Dr. Ahmad al-Rab'i, member of the Kuwaiti popular delegation that arrived in Amman last night and member of the National Assembly, has said that the purpose of the delegation's visit is to explain the Kuwaiti people's position on the Gulf crisis because we believe that we have been negligent in conveying our view to the Arab peoples.

On the preference for an Arab or international solution to the Gulf crisis, he said: First, we want this crisis to be resolved peacefully in a manner giving our people their right to return to their homeland, and that spares the fraternal Iraqi people the consequences of any destructive war.

He added: We do not want our happiness to be at the expense of the Iraqi people's agony, because we are ultimately one Arab people.

Dr. al-Rab'i added: We have come to listen, in the first place, especially since the Jordanian position deserves many meetings and discussions. We appreciate Jordan's desire for an Arab and peaceful solution to the crisis. In our capacity as representatives of the Kuwaiti people, we want to hold dialogue with open minds with our brothers in Jordan.

On the Gulf Cooperation Council Secretary General Bisharah Ya'qub Bisharah's call to expel Palestinians and Jordanians from the Gulf, he said: Whoever calls for expelling Palesitnians and Jordanians from the Gulf is taking the same position as Me'ir Kahana in Israel. The Palestine question is our primary issue in the region and the interests of the Palestinian people are linked to our interests. The Palestinian people in Kuwait have been harmed just as much as the Kuwaiti people were harmed. [passage omitted]

Meets With Al-Qasim

JN0212154090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Mr. Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met at the Foreign Ministry today with the head and members of the Kuwaiti popular delegation and discussed with them the developments in the Gulf crisis. Mr. al-Qasim explained what has been Jordan's principled position on the crisis since it erupted. He pointed out that Jordan, out of concern for the Arab nation, has called for a solution to the crisis within Arab boundaries and in a manner that protects the Arab nation's interests and spares it the dangers of foreign interference and military conflagration.

He reviewed His Majesty King Husayn's continuous efforts to reach a peaceful solution to the crisis, and said the fact that the crisis quickly jumped out of Arab hands—without Arab efforts receiving sufficient support and time—further complicated the crisis and allowed those with ambitions in the Arab nation to take advantage and create a reality that serves no Arab brother.

Mr. al-Qasim said Jordan's concern for fraternal Kuwait and its people and for pan-Arab security compels it to make all possible efforts to avoid a military confrontation, and dictates that it regard Iraq's power as a basic part of Arab capability that must not be singled out or sold out. He added: Jordan's position has been subjected to a campaign of distortion and much slander and deliberate misinterpretation, because Jordan chose to stand on the side of its nation and to show concern for all Arabs, and because it has refused to be driven into the frantic escalation, thus subjecting the Arab nation to further dangers.

The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministry director general, the Kuwaiti ambassador in Amman, and the Jordanian ambassador in Kuwait.

Group Refuses To Meet Kuwaitis

JN0212102990 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 2 Dec 90 p 4

[Text] Taysir al-Himsi, doyen of pharmacists and member of the Jordanian Arab National Democratic Alliance, has announced that the Jordanian pharmacists refuse to meet or hold dialogue with the Kuwaiti popular delegation, currently in Jordan. He said that this delegation represents all the former rulers of Kuwait, who invited the forces of evil and blasphemy to occupy Arab territory, desecrate the Islamic holy places, and threaten proud Iraq, which represents the Arab awakening.

He said the delegation members should reconsider their attitude toward Arab unity instead of their desperate attempts to undermine national unity—a unity most splendidly manifested in this country, which has stood by the side of sisterly Iraq. He stressed that it would be more appropriate for the delegation members, who are coming in the name of the Kuwaiti opposition, to demand the release of tens of billions of dollars and deposits from enemy hands, in addition to what is being spent on the foreign forces that have desecrated our lands and holy places in the Arabian Peninsula and Gulf.

The pharmacists' doyen added that, had there been a real opposition in Kuwait, it would have joined the pan-Arab

and unionist forces rejecting the division and subservience created by colonialism. But they are partners in looting and dividing the Arab nation's wealth among themselves, he said.

JANDA Urges Boycotting Delegation

JN0312095690 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Dec 90 p 2

[Text] Amman—The Jordanian Arab National Democratic Alliance [JANDA] has called for boycotting the Kuwaiti popular delegation now visiting Jordan. The JANDA spokesman said that the Iraqi forces' entry into Kuwait did not come out of a vacuum; it was preceded by aggressive acts against Iraq that were carried out by the Kuwaiti Government. These acts included increasing oil production by large quantities resulting in a steep drop in the world price of oil. This had severe effect on the financial and economic situation in Iraq. This is in addition to that government's encroachment on Iraq's rights in the al-Rumaylah oil field and its intransigent refusal to stop its financial and economic aggression against Iraq. That aggression was planned by the United States to force Iraq's capitulation and subservience to America.

The JANDA spokesman added that, despite the fact that the Iraqi Government had warned at the Arab summit in Baghdad of the seriousness of the Kuwaiti Government's continuing financial and economic aggression, its exploitation of the oilfields in al-Rumaylah, and its refusal to begin serious talks to demarcate the borders, the Kuwaiti Government insisted on its position, even though the Government of Iraq tried to settle matters and resolve the dispute on the Arab and international levels. As a result of the continuous aggressive position of the Kuwaiti Government, the Iraqi Government practiced its legitimate right of self-defense. And as result, Iraqi forces entered Kuwait.

The spokesman noted that the Kuwaiti national movement was expected—in light of its national and pan-Arab history—to do everything in its power to put pressure on the Kuwaiti Government to disassociate itself from the American plotting against Iraq, and consequently, to reach an agreement between Iraq and the Government of Kuwait. The national movement, however, did not exert effective and influential efforts to this effect.

The JANDA spokesman said: Hence the failure of the Kuwaiti movement on the national and pan-Arab levels in not standing up against the Kuwaiti ruling family. The Kuwaiti national movement could have played a decisive national role—on national and pan-Arab principles—to prevent the American forces' invasion of the Arabian Peninsula at the request of Saudi Arabia, the Kuwaiti Government, and the rest of the Gulf states.

Delegation Discusses Crisis

JN0312101590 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Dec 90 p 16

[Text] Amman—Last night, the World Affairs Council hosted the Kuwaiti popular delegation visiting Jordan. The delegation presented its position on the Gulf crisis. This was followed by a heated discussion on the developments of the situation.

At the beginning of the meeting, which was attended by several Council members and the elite of Jordanian thinkers and politicians, Tahir Hikmat, president of the Council, welcomed the Kuwaiti delegation to Jordan, which, he said, has always believed in and worked for an Arab solution within the one Arab family. Hikmat said that relations among the sons of the Arab nation are firm and that divisions cannot be justified. Dialogue must continue between Arabs under all circumstances, he added. The meeting was addressed by Dr. Ahmad al-Rab'i, professor of Islamic philosophy at Kuwait University and former deputy; Sa'ud al-'Usaymi, former minister of state for foreign affairs; and Mubarak al-Duwaylah, a leading member of the Islamic Movement in Kuwait.

The members of the Kuwaiti delegation outlined their viewpoint on the Gulf crisis. They explained that their visit to Jordan is one of several visits by Kuwaiti popular delegations to Arab and foreign countries. These visits, they said, were approved by the Kuwaiti popular rally in al-Ta'if.

The speakers said: Some people warned us that our visit to Jordan would harm us. Still, we insisted on paying this visit, presenting our viewpoint to the Jordanian people, and also listening to their opinions on what has happened in our region.

The members of the delegation said: We regret the Democratic Alliance's [Jordanian Arab National Democratic Alliance—JANDA] decision to boycott us. We have come to learn and listen, and we want the others also to listen to us. We want the dialogue to continue with everyone.

The members of the delegation said: We done not defend those who have stolen the funds of the nation. We also say that we are unhappy with the presence of foreign forces on Arab territory. There is not a single Kuwaiti or Arab who feels honored by foreign military presence on Arab territory, whether it be desert or oil field. The Kuwaiti delegation called for a pan-Arab dialogue to resolve all Arab differences.

The delegation members said they are innocent of the accusations published in the expatriate Kuwaiti press. This was anounced, they said, at a large popular rally and also at a seminar in Cairo. They added that a Kuwaiti paper published abroad has refused to publish these negative things.

The members of the Kuwaiti delegation cast doubt on U.S. President Bush's initiative on dialogue with Iraq, saying it is a cover so the U.S. President can tell his people, the Congress, and the Europeans: I have exhausted all political solutions and there is no other choice but war.

A heated discussion took place between the Council members and the Kuwaiti delegation. The Council members explained that Jordan under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn has exerted great efforts to find a solution to the crisis within the Arab family. They added that their condemnation of the U.S. invasion and the Jordanian citizen's support for the Iraqi president and Iraq are an expression of Arab hope and power against U.S. and Zionist arrogance. Any harm done to Iraq will be unfair, they added.

The Jordanian speakers explained: Even if the Iraqi president decides to withdraw from Kuwait, the West will continue to demand the elimination of Iraq's economic and military power. Therefore, withdrawal from Kuwait without adequate guarantees would expose Iraq to grave danger, perhaps graver than the present danger. This is something that no Arab can accept. If the Iraqi president withdraws from Kuwait, or even from Baghdad, U.S. fleets and forces will not withdraw from the sources of oil wealth.

The members of the Kuwaiti delegation said they felt that the Jordanian press has been strongly sympathetic with Iraq, to the extent that articles presenting pro-Kuwaiti Government viewpoints have not been published in the local papers.

AL-DUSTUR Chief Editor Mahmud al-Sharif responded to this saying: The visit to Jordan by the delegation has come late. There is a misunderstanding of the Jordanian position, because it was the first to call for an Arab solution. If the differences had remained between Iraqi and Kuwaiti only, there could have been division on the method of tackling the issue. But, what escalated the problem and moved it out of its narrow framework into a conflict of states, interests, and strategies, was the entry of the American element quickly to abort Arab moves to achieve a peaceful solution. And the problem took on new dimensions; it has become a problem of President Saddam Husayn's confrontation with the West instead of a problem between Iraq and Kuwait. And the issue became a problem of Saddam Husayn with America and that Saddam has a military force threatening Israel, the U.S. ally.

Al-Sharif added: We should understand and scrutinize deeply the Jordanian-Palestinian feeling that lives with the Israeli concern day and night. He said that the Gulf and Kuwaiti press has tarnished the image of Jordan because of these stands, attacked the regime, and stabbed Jordan because it did not dispatch its forces.

Al-Sharif said that the Jordanian press is free; it mirrors the feelings of Jordanian citizens. There is no time here to speak about the past and the wounds. Our press is trying to maintain an ethical level, not to descend to the level of other Arab papers that have shed even the most basic norms and values. He said: We publish Gulf news in our country and allow the Gulf papers to enter Jordan with all their defamations. Our papers, however, are not allowed to enter most Arab countries supporting the foreign invasion.

At the end of the meeting, the members of the Kuwaiti popular delegation expressed their appreciation for the hospitality they received and the opportunity to meet with the members of the World Affairs Council in this democratic dialogue.

The Kuwaiti popular delegation comprises Dr. Ahmad al-Raba'i, Muhammad Musa'id, al-Salih, Muhammad Jasim al-Saqr, Ahmad Zayn al- Saqqaf, Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, Mubarak al-Duwaylah, and 'Abd-al- Baqi al-Nuri.

Prime Minister Views Visit

JN0312112390 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Dec 90 pp 1, 18

[Excerpts] Amman—AL-RA'Y—Prime Minister Mudar Badran has said that flour has not disappeared from the market, but the process of selling it [by the government to merchants] has been organized because large amounts of flour are being smuggled abroad. He remarked that, in one week, 247 tonnes of flour were seized at smuggling areas.

Answering questions by deputies during the House of Representatives session yesterday, the prime minister said: In the distribution of flour among citizens, we have substituted the wholesale merchants with military and civilian cooperative societies. He said this is the best solution, because it is not reasonable that the government subsidizes this material for it to be smuggled abroad. He added that black market and war merchants in Iraq are sentenced to death. He remarked that rumors about a contract to sell beer to U.S. Forces in Saudi Arabia are untrue and this subject has been investigated, but nothing has been proved. [passage omitted]

The prime minister said there are no political prisoners and that the names that have been mentioned are of persons who committed murder for which they are being punished. He asked to be given the name of any political prisoner.

On the popular Kuwaiti delegation [currently visiting Jordan], he said no invitation was issued to them to visit Jordan. Earlier, a number of deputies spoke on current issues.

Afterward, House Speaker 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat called for a session by the House at 1700 on Wednesday.

Ba'th Party Spokesman Suspicious

JN0312115990 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Dec 90 p 2

[Text] Amman—Lawyer Ahmad al-Najdawi, spokesman for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and member of the Jordanian Arab National Democratic Alliance, has described the visit to Jordan by the Kuwaiti popular delegation as a suspect attempt to undermine national and popular unity in Jordan. He noted that representatives of Jordanian national forces have coordinated to adopt a unified position to obstruct these attempts by refusing to meet with the members of the delegation.

Lawyer al-Najdawi called on the delegation to respect Jordanian popular unanimity and its adherence to its clear pan-Arab position on the Gulf crisis. He announced his support for Iraq in its pan-Arab battle. In a statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, al-Najdawi said that those who call themselves Kuwaiti opposition participated in the recent al-Ta'if conference and agreed on the hostile quarters' proposal to restore the Al Sabah family's control of Kuwait's resources. He added that they also agreed on the measures and practices of the former amirs of Kuwait to bring foreign forces to occupy the Arab land and desecrate the Islamic holy places in the Peninsula and Gulf. He added that the masks have been removed from the faces of the alleged opposition and their reality has been exposed. They only differ with the Al Sabah family in the distribution of roles and the division and plundering of Arab wealth.

Column Urges Kuwaiti Change

JN0312121390 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Dec 90 pp 20, 15

["A Pause" column by Hamadah Fara'inah: "What Does the Kuwaiti Delegation Want?"]

[Text] What does the Kuwaiti delegation want from its visit to Jordan? Is it carrying al-Ta'if resolutions, which the official spokesman, Dr. al-Rumayhi, expressed by saying: "Whoever is not with us is against us?" Is it trying to win over Jordanian opinion represented in its political forces, public figures, trade unions, and elected Parliament? Or, does it want to say something else and show that it is different from those who have thrown themselves, their present, their future, and whatever little independence they had before 2 August into the American lap?

We have said more than once that we are not with Iraq against the Kuwaiti people, because we understand the meaning of stability and democracy. After all, we have suffered a great deal from their absence. But they did not understand that, and they did not appreciate our position. We also said that we have no choice but to side with Iraq in the confrontation against the official Kuwaiti-U.S.-Atlantic alliance. They also ignored what we said.

We viewed the experiment, role, practices, and aspirations of the Kuwaiti opposition before 2 August with appreciation and respect because of its conflict with the official government stand, its solidarity with the brave Palestinian people, its support for Iraq's pan-Arab stand, and its presence in the Arab trench; the trench of liberation, independence, democracy, and unity. But when the Kuwaiti opposition left this trench, then the various Arab progressive liberation forces had no choice but to change its attitude toward this opposition in light of its new options, trench, and stand.

The Kuwaiti opposition has failed, throughout these past months of the crisis to adopt a stand distinct from that taken by the Al Sabah government, which is allied with the Camp David parties. It has not taken a single initiative to contact or hold a dialogue with its Iraqi brothers away from foreign influence and U.S. military backing. The Kuwaiti opposition has failed to assume its national responsibility toward both the fraternal Kuwaiti and Iraqi peoples. It has lost its political track and failed to find a formula that ensures its distinct, independent stand and preserves its independent national identity, free will, and legitimate aspirations. The Kuwaiti opposition has failed to exploit the atmosphere and option that was open to it to start a fraternal dialogue with Iraq. It did not understand that Iraq is a fraternal, not a foreign colonial country. Nor did it understand that there were differences in viewpoints and endeavors, and conflicts in interests between Kuwaitis and Iraqis that should have been resolved bilaterally or within the Arab house on the basis of respecting the interlocking national and pan-Arab interests, primarily the interlocking Kuwaiti and Iraqi interests.

The Kuwaiti opposition and its popular forces and its political, parliamentary, and trade union figures have demonstrated their inability to hold an opinion, a declaration, a wish, or an expression of free will that is distinct from the policy of the "official legitimate government" whose will and choices are mortgaged to the aggressive desires and will of the United States.

We understand and accept differences. We also affirm our right and their right to differ. But the leaders of the Kuwaiti opposition, represented by the present delegation, have dealt us several unfair blows below the belt. They discredited Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, and all those Arabs who rejected the U.S. presence. They did not only discredit and differ with Jordanian, Palestinian, and Yemeni policy, they also discredited the Arab people in all these countries, resorting to al-Sadat's policy and depending on the official policy and media of the Camp David regime. The Kuwaiti opposition has gone beyond all limits and values. So, what do they want to tell us? We will listen and we will welcome any change, awareness, or responsible action toward a revision of their stand!!

'All' Hostages To Be Released 'Very Soon'

JN0212094390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0912 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Doha, 2 Dec (WAKH)—Press reports published here today cited Lebanese security sources as saying that foreign hostages in Lebanon will be released very soon.

The sources told the Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB that the inclination now is to release all foreign hostages, starting with the British hostages and ending with the Americans. The sources said that the agreement concluded recently between Amal Movement and the so-called Hizballah under Syrian-Iranian auspices will speed up the release of the hostages.

The sources added that a week before the Lebanese and Syrian armies took control of the security of Beirut's Southern Suburb, kidnappers moved the foreign hostages in utmost secrecy in five batches to the city of Ba'labakk in central Lebanon's al-Biqa' region. However, the hostages have become a burden to the kidnappers; this will become particularly so when the state implements its decision to disband militias.

The paper expected that the restoration of diplomatic relations between Syria and Britain will contribute to releasing hostages, especially British hostages.

The paper also cited Lebanese officials as expressing the need to also work to force Israel to release Lebanese and Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons in southern Lebanon and occupied Palestine.

Lebanese Forces To Complete Withdrawal 3 Dec

NC0312072290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] The Lebanese Forces have sent a delegation to meet with President Ilyas al-Hirawi. The delegation informed the president that the Lebanese Forces are committed to the withdrawal. The delegation also informed Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss and the Army Command of this commitment.

It has been learned that U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker participated in the contacts with the Lebanese Forces. The Lebanese Forces asked for a few more hours in which to complete their withdrawal.

The Lebanese Forces' Fifth Branch declared last night that the final phase of the withdrawal from al-Ashrafiyah will be completed as of 1000 today. It said that the roads from Charles Hilu Avenue, Jisr al-Karantina, and the al-Dawrah circle to the Nahr al-Mawt circle will be closed from 1000 to 1200 today.

Meanwhile, the Army units tasked with implementing the Greater Beirut plan were in a state of complete readiness yesterday, awaiting the order to deploy as planned. An Army engineering unit and 6th Brigade units opened the other lane of the old Sidon Road in the direction of 'Ayn al-Rummanah and removed all mines and barriers from it. They also opened all the side roads between the al- Tayyunah circle and the Mar Mikha'il circle in the direction of al- Shiyah and 'Ayn al-Rummanah. Both lanes of the old Sidon Road are now open.

Military sources said that these roads were opened to allow for the movement of and supplies to the 6th Brigade units which will deploy in part of Beirut's Southern Suburb.

Meeting Held on Iqlim al-Tuffah Withdrawal

NC0312073590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Regarding Iqlim al-Tuffah, the Higher Committee has held a meeting at the office of Lieutenant Colonel Rustum Ghazalah, head of the Syrian observers in Beirut. In addition to Ghazalah, the meeting was attended by Brigadier General Ghazi Ka'nan, chief of intelligence of the Syrian Arab forces in Lebanon; Iranian Ambassador in Damascus Shaykh Mohammad Hasan Akhtari; Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri; and Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli. The discussions focused on the withdrawal of gunmen from the Iqlim.

The meeting ended shortly before midnight last night. The obstacles preventing the withdrawal of all gunmen from the villages in the area, especially the Amal and Hizballah gunmen, were eliminated. However, sources close to the meeting said that a problem regarding the withdrawal from a specific town has not been completely resolved. The discussion of this problem will be continued later but this will not affect the gradual withdrawals from villages where there were previously clashes.

The sources affirmed that all problems will be resolved and that matters will proceed smoothly despite some minor delays.

Raid Destroys Palestinian Struggle Front Center

NC0112120390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Acording to our correspondent in al-Biqa', a squadron of four enemy planes attacked an administrative center for the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front in Ta'lbaya near Shtawrah at 1200 today. Two planes fired rockets at the center, while the other two planes provided air cover and support. The raid, which lasted a few minutes, resulted in the total destruction of the center and damaged nearby houses. Five people were taken to the Red Crescent Hospital in Barr Ilyas for treatment.

Source Calls Bush Initiative 'Appropriate'

JN0112185290 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1840 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] A responsible source at the Syrian Arab Foreign Ministry has commented on U.S. President George Bush's initiative yesterday by saying: Syria believes that this initiative is appropriate so long as its objective is to avert war in the Gulf, realize complete withdrawal from Kuwait, and return its government in implementation of Arab and international resolutions.

Commentary on UN Decision, Iraq's 'Stubbornness'

JN3011190090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1251 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] As expected, the Security Council adopted a new resolution that this time allows all methods against Iraq, including force, if it does not withdraw from Kuwait no later than mid-January 1991.

The new resolution was a surprise to no one. World opinion was prepared for it, especially since all resolutions passed earlier by the Security Council on the Gulf crisis have been ignored by the Government of Iraq. In fact, the Iraqi Government has stepped up its repressive and demographic measures in Kuwait. This is a blatant challenge to the international will, and it touched off denunciation from many quarters and circles concerned with the Gulf crisis.

The truth is that most world governments have counseled and warned the Government of Iraq to stop tampering with the fate of a region that is the focus of attention of the entire world. The Soviet warning, served by Gorbachev, was very strong. It clearly pointed out that the Security Council might be forced to approve the use of force and that the international family is in total unanimity on the need to deprive the aggressor from the fruits of his aggression. The French warning also was no less clear and to the same effect. The Beijing Government advised Iraq to respond to the Security Council resolutions and to withdraw its forces before it was too late.

After the new Security Council resolution was passed, warnings also came from Arab and international quarters. Nothing so far gives grounds for optimism on an Iraqi response. The Government of Iraq insists on brushing aside Arab and international calls. This, however, will only make the international alliance more solid in its aim, which is to drive the Iraqi forces out by force, if needed, and set things right in Kuwait, especially since this goal has won the support of world opinion.

Any Arab observer who has been following the development of the Gulf crisis has to wonder: Where is the Iraqi Government heading? Why this determination to subject the Iraqi people and the countries of the region to the dangers of a war that will certainly be catastrophic? Iraqi calculations, if there are such calculations, are mistaken. Everyone recalls that prior to the outbreak of the Iraq-Iran war Syria tried to convince Baghdad officials not to get involved in an attack against Iran. Syria failed to convince those officials who thought at the time that the military operation would be a stroll. This stroll, however, lasted for eight years and cost Iraq and Iran 1 million killed and losses estimated at hundreds of billions of dollars.

If war breaks out in the Gulf, this time it will be more destructive and ruinous in view of the massive military buildup and the destructive weapons involved. An observer does not have to think long before he realizes that the only loser will be Iraq, the countries of the region, and the Arab nation. Indeed, Iraq will be the biggest loser, because destruction will not only affect military forces, equipment, and installations, but might develop to destroy vital economic installations. In other words, Iraq will be subjected to a horrible cataclysm and will suffer its unspeakable effects for scores of years. As for the Arab nation, as a result of this disaster it will lose the energies and potential of Iraq in the confrontation with the Zionist threat.

The question remains: Why? Do the Iraqi people, Army, capabilities, and institutions deserve to be subjected to such a terrible danger because of the stubbornness and arrogance of its rulers? What interest does Iraq have in opposing the entire world? Why should it oppose the whole world? Iraq's interests dictate that it be the first to rescue the people of Kuwait and answer the appeals for help from its kinsfolk. What is the value of an oil well or oil wells, whether in Iraq or Kuwait? Are they not virtually Arab wells?

Official Iraqi talk about historical rights in Kuwait does not hold water, compared to pan-Arab logic, for Iraq and Kuwait should be two fraternal countries who help and support each other through thick and thin. They were such, until the appetite of Baghdad's rulers was whetted to swallow up the younger brother in an action that is condemned by all standards.

Time is fast running out. Defusing the explosion has become an Iraqi responsibility, so as to spare the region a conflagration. The Iraqi people are certainly eager to end the crisis with Kuwait within the context of brotherly relations and Arab resolutions and traditions. Will the Iraqi rulers free themselves from their illusions and respond to the call of duty and the nation and the interests of the people and the region before it is too late?

Libyan Official Arrives To Discuss Gulf Crisis

JN3011142590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Mr. Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah, secretary of the General People's Committee of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, arrived in Damascus on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic at 1230 today.

Leading those receiving him at the Damascus International Airport were Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi; Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar'; Transportation Minister Engineer Yusuf Ahmad; Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah; Information Minister Muhammad Salman; Wahib Fadil, minister of the Republic affairs; 'Ali Khalil, minister of state; 'Abdallah al-Haddar, charge d'affaires of the Libyan Relations Bureau; and Bureau members.

Mr. Durdah made a statement to the SANA correspondent in which he said: I am delegated by brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, to his brother President Hafiz al-Asad on a mission dealing with the current Arab situation.

Delivers Message to Al-Asad

JN3011165090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Damascus—At 1700 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Mr. Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah, secretary of the General People's Committee of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi.

Mr. al-Zu'bi had met with Mr. Durdah at the Prime Ministry at 1300 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar' and 'Abdallah al-Haddar, charge d'affaires of the Libyan Relations Bureau in Damascus.

During this meeting, they discussed the appropriate means for developing fraternal relations between Syria and Libya in all fields. The talks also dealt with current Arab issues.

Leaves Damascus

JN3011193790 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Mr. Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah, secretary of the General People's Committee of the Libyan Arab Jamahiryah, left Damascus at 1745 today after a short visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. To see him off at Damascus International Airport was Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, as well as Transport Minister Yusuf Ahmad, Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah, Information Minister Muhammad Salman, Minister of State 'Ali Khalil, Libyan Relations Bureau Charge d'Affaires 'Abdallah al-Haddar, and the members of the bureau in Damascus.

Mr. Durdah told the SANA correspondent: During my visit to Syria I delivered a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution.

We also exchanged views with brother Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and the other brother officials on all current Arab issues.

British Parliamentarians Tour Al-Qunaytirah City

JN0212144490 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1715 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Damascus, 1 Dec (SANA)—Mr. Shakir Is'ayyid, head of the People's Assembly's Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee, today received a British parliamentary delegation headed by Tom Cox [name as received], member of the Executive Committee of the British Parliamentary Branch.

During the meeting, Mr. Is'ayyid discussed the democratic march in Syria, especially following the establishment of the glorious Corrective Movement and the People's Assembly. He reviewed a number of current issues in the Arab region and Syria's positions on them.

Mr. Cox said he and his delegation are happy about visiting Syria. He noted his country's interest in issues in the region and the Arabian Gulf, and in the efforts to solve them in accordance with UN resolutions.

The British parliamentary delegation today visited the liberated city of al-Qunaytirah and heard a detailed account of its history before the aggression of 1967 and the methods of terrorism practiced by the Zionist enemy when it completely and intentionally destroyed the city, as well as an account of the inhuman Israeli practices against the residents of the villages in the occupied Golan Heights.

The delegation then toured the city and saw the effects of the bestial destruction which the enemy left behind. The delegation then planted a tree in the Friends of al-Qunaytirah Park, visited the martyrs' graveyard, and also placed a wreath on the tomb of the unknown soldier.

The delegation then wrote a short paragraph in the visitor's book in which they said: We understand very well your great tribulations. We should all work as friends for the sake of the liberation of the Palestinian people and the Golan Heights. We hope that during our subsequent visits all these occupied territories will have been liberated and returned to their true owners.

Meet With Al-Shar'

JN0212163690 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received this evening the British parliamentary delegation headed by Mr. Thomas Cox, Labor Party member of parliament, and (John Tound), Conservative Party member of parliament, in the presence of Mr. Shakir Is'ayyid, head of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee in the People's Assembly.

Talks focused on bilateral relations. Mr. Cox expressed the delegation's happiness at its first visit after the resumption of diplomatic ties between the two countries. He expressed his country's wish to develop bilateral relations with Syria to the best possible level. He also

expressed his great appreciation for Syria's important role in both the regional and international arenas.

Talks also dealt with the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Gulf crisis, and the positive developments in the Lebanese arena.

Confer With Speaker

JN0212164590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah today received the British parliamentary delegation comprising Mr. Thomas Cox, Labor member of Parliament, and (John Tound), Conservative member of Parliament. Shakir Is'ayyid, head of the People's Assembly Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee, and several Assembly members attended.

Conversation during the meeting centered on the current issues in the region and on bilateral relations, in light of the restoration of ties between the two countries and the importance of bolstering and improving those ties for the benefit of the two parties.

Mr. Cox then spoke to express his and the delegation's happiness at visiting Syria for the first time since ties were restored and his appreciation of Syria's distinguished role in the Arab region, its international and regional positions, and efforts to release those kidnapped in Lebanon. Mr. (Tound) said he will seek to set up a British-Syrian friendship society in the British House of Commons that will seek to improve bilateral, particularly Parliamentarian, relations between the two countries.

See Vice President Khaddam

JN0212192890 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Damascus, 2 Dec (SANA)—Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received at 1200 today the British parliamentarian delegation headed by Mr. Thomas Cox. Shakir Is'ayyid, head of the People's Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee, was in attendance.

The conversation centered on the situation in the Middle East, particularly the Arab-Israeli conflict and the situation in the Gulf, as well as on relations between Syria and Britain.

Khaddam, Kuwaiti Delegation Discuss Withdrawal

JN0112191690 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received the Kuwaiti popular delegation headed by Mr. Ahmad al-Saqqaf at 1800 today, in the presence of Kuwaiti Ambassador in Damascus Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Jasim.

The talks centered on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and its dangerous outcome. Their views were identical about the need to implement the resolutions of the Arab summit that Iraq withdraw from Kuwait and its legitimate government restored.

Self-Rule in Gaza Cover For 'Oppression'

JN0312084490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 3 Dec 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "A New Maneuver," the newspaper TISHRIN says in its comment today: For a long time, the leaders of the Zionist enemy have not given any political indication, in terms of projects or proposals, regarding the future of the occupied Arab territories, other than focusing on how to quell and terminate the intifadah, continue stepping up settlement in these occupied territories especially in Jerusalem, and the importance of absorbing and settling the new Jewish emigrants.

Surprisingly, however, voices and calls in Israel have come up with proposals indicating the possibility of withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and establishing self-rule there. This is because the Strip has become hell for the occupation forces and there is nothing left except for these forces to leave the Strip so that Israel can concentrate fully on terminating the intifadah in the West Bank.

TISHRIN adds: These proposals and calls come under what has been termed self-rule in the Gaza Strip. They include a timetable for the withdrawal of Israeli troops after elections are held and after special status has been given to the Jewish citizens who prefer to remain there.

The paper concludes: These proposals are not strange given that they come only a week after Yitzhaq Shamir's affirmation in the Knesset that he intends to hold on to the West Bank and Gaza Strip for the settlement of Jewish emigrants, who are allowed to reside anywhere in Israel from the Mediterranean to the Jordan River, even if this leads to angering the international community. Therefore, talk about future projects and proposals are a cover for Israel's true stand based on control, oppression, maintaining the occupation, establishing settlements, and disregarding international legitimacy and the UN resolutions.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Speaks to Peace Front High Assembly

LD2911190390 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Speech by President Najibullah at the first session of the High Assembly of the Unity of Afghanistan's Peace Front in the Storay Palace of the Foreign Ministry in Kabul on 29 November—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Esteemed listeners, participants of the High Assembly of the Unity of Afghanistan's Peace Front. I am pleased that this grand gathering has been convened after long, serious and effective efforts by the peace-loving people and those people who have the interests of the country at heart.

The founding assembly and its organizing board have successfully carried out the necessary work to draft and approve the basic documents of the Peace Front including the work procedure, internal relations, and policy of the Peace Front of Afghanistan as well as other measures for uniting the political and social forces and noted personalities. On behalf of the Republic of Afghanistan, I want to express thanks to all members of the founding assembly of the Peace Front and those esteemed personalities who took part in the preparations for the High Assembly of Unity of Afghanistan's Peace Front.

At the present time when the dark cloud of war covers the sky of our beloved country and millions of our Muslim compatriots at home and abroad are hoping for peace—this greatest need of the majority of our nation—the holding of this high assembly assumes great importance.

The present assembly can in fact be a turning point in the matter of ensuring coordination and organizing the efforts and struggle of all the forces in favor of peace and national unity including political parties, social organizations, formations and groups, armed internal commanders, refugees, national and influencial personalities, and finally every compatriot who is weary of the war, for ending the war and achieving peace and reconstruction of our beloved country.

The brave Afghan nation will never forget the self-sacrificing efforts of its honest children who are working hard to put out the flames of war in their dear country.

Dear friends, the urgent need for peace shows that your action in forming a new peace unity is totally justifiable. The dialogue on forming this new unity began 10 months ago. During this period considerable positive changes have taken place in the political sphere of our country. The amendments in the constitution of the country approved by the Loya Jerga [Grand Assembly] held in 1369 [beginning 21 March 1990] and other measures taken by the Republic of Afghanistan have expanded and deepened the democratic process in the country. I want to mention with pleasure that the national reconciliation policy and the national compromise and intention among our compatriots for resolving the conflicts by political means have obtained more extensive dimensions and involved a wider spectrum of the country's political forces.

You are aware that two months ago when the extremist assisted by Pakistani militarists embarked on a major attack on Kabul city, a new political climate shaped among the opposition and the majority of the realistic and patriotic forces of the country condemned this scheme.

During the last two months, we have again witnessed increasing disagreement among the ranks of the opposition, among the moderate forces who are inclining toward peace and a political solution on the one hand and the supporters of the military solution and expansion of war and bloodshed on the other. However, it should of course be said that a number of the forces who realize the need for talks and political solution understand the interfering stance taken by a number of foreign countries and are moving toward a sounder standpoint.

We have pointed out several times our position of broad and strong inclination toward national understanding among the ranks, the commanders, and a number of the opposition leaders. Facts prove that such an interest is real; it is solely foreign interference that has so far prevented all-round national understanding. The Republic of Afghanstan wants talks, understanding and all-round cooperation with the peace-seeking forces of the opposition. Every sort of initiative that will lead to the maintenance of peace in the country is supported and backed by us. We do not approach power with monopolist manner, and we consider the proportional and just participation of all forces in central and local power as a necesary measure for the political solution of Afghan problems. The most important thing is that peace should be maintained in the country and the people—through free and just elections on the basis of democracy—should elect their trusted representatives in the leadership of the country. The people should, through general and direct means, decide where they should be. We believe that all, without exception, should pass the test of the people's judgement and should be bound to respect the general will of our people.

During my visit to Geneva, in order to hold talks with a number of opposition personalities and activists, we emphasized accord on the principles of talks, understanding, national unity, elections, and the creation of a system based on democracy, which are the only means for maintaining peace and ending bloodshed in the country. This visit caused a great hubbub. You see that the sounds of [words indistinct]. The journalists are very active. In some way or other they want to expose the events. [BBC correspondent] Deepak Tripathi is smiling, thinking that eventually I am going to reach this aim! The question is, we have a common saying that when thief flees from his crime, all the people pursuing him call for his capture. In order to escape capture, the thief

too begins shouting: stop thief, stop thief, stop thief! [applause] Using this saying of our common people, I have told you many times and have emphasized that our path is the path of the policy of reconciliation and national understanding among the Afghans, so that the discord that has been created should be eliminated. Our determination is resolute, we are sincere, the maintenance of peace has been transformed into a sacred aspiration of our people, and we have no person or group that does not pay (?heed) to this sacred aspiration of our people. Therefore we declare that our efforts—to which you are witness, people of Afghanistan and the world is witness to this fact—are continuing day and night. We will not grow weary on this path.

We will never tire of the path of struggle towards ensuring peace. We have said that talks are continuing at all levels inside and outside the country. It is not us who want to conceal the talks. Our policy is obvious and plain when we say that we will sit down with Afghans anywhere. The opposition comes and sits with us as Afghans, and then requests from us, as Afghans, that in order to avoid damage to the process you should conceal this issue and not reveal things. They say, it is early, the issue is in process; the issue can be damaged, can be harmed.

So, when we shook hands as Afghans, we observed this request. We say that in principle when you expect a president to travel to another place, that cannot remain secret as he is not just a pin that you can pin to your jacket and no one will notice it. I must proclaim it to my people, to the outstanding representatives, political personalities and various strata of the society that this is a fact—meeting the opposition—and it will advance further, I assure you. And as we have come to some sort of understanding, it is not the time to reveal this issue at this stage.

I want to ask you a question, especially the journalists, if Deepak Tripathi will volunteer. I want to ask him to say just one word, with whom talks can be held and with whom talks cannot be held? Can he tell me with whom talks cannot be held? Yes, Deepak Tripathi. He is laughing. Now you choose someone. [unidentified person shouts "Gulbuddin"]

With Gulbuddin! Now I tell you. You can hear his shouting from one hand [as heard]. Last night too he was very angry. He says that Najibullah does not allow him to succeed by firing missiles at Kabul, or by means of military revolution, or by a general attack on Kabul, so how can we achieve success?

Now I tell you. As one of my compatriots has been named here, I talk about him as an example. We choose Gulbuddin as an example. During the time of Zia Ul-Haq two of his representatives came to Kabul. I held talks with them personally. Gulbuddin heard my voice from this microphone when he sent a message telling Najib: It is surprising—considering that when we, Gulbuddin and Najibullah, were at university during the student uprising, we were struggling against Zahir Shah together—that now you have invited all Afghans including Zahir Shah to join in the political solution of the Afghan issue? Isn't it surprising that you, as an element who was talking about progress and advancement, want to turn the clock back 50 years?

I told him that the scattering of the Afghan nation is being discussed and the sacred mission for us is to create a national understanding. If the question is that I might turn the clock back 50 years, then, I believe that I am still more progressive because I am not turning it back 500 years and I am not going with you. [applause] It is better to go back 50 years than 500 years. I am still 450 years ahead of you and more progressive than you. I conveyed this to him as an example. I also want to say that before everyone else, the talks were continuing with all of them, he contacted me; as I do not want this, but still I say it. [sentence as heard] There are a number of the ambassadors of various countries here; we will hold talks with them, they are our friends. They were the hosts of our talks. They were mediators of our talks, and they were the direct participants and witnesses of our talks. I will discuss this with Gulbuddin. I think this can be a topic for the BBC. It can ask them what type of talks they want, and where. Then I will send him its specifications including the number of our people, our representation, the time, the place and the host, and the mediator. He should say it before the world and before the people of Afghanistan. [applause]

I must also tell you that after the conspiracy and plot of Pakistani militarists in connection with the unsuccessful coup, efforts were again made by Gulbuddin through one of the friendly countries; he said we should sit down and talk. We told him, if you have something new, a new idea, then we can sit down and talk to you. But, if it is your old plans, we cannot deal with those. We do not want to make a deal over the territorial integrity of our country, over the history of our country. We do not want to make a deal by saying that all forces should get together then just strike a deal with Gulbuddin. If you have something new for uniting all the forces and creating national unity, something that respects our national honor and the history of Afghanistan, we are ready to talk again provided it is not under the name of confederation, not under the name of dividing Afghanistan, and not under this threat that we will be under the influence of Pakistan tomorrow [as heard]. Otherwise, we are not prepared to talk. [applause]

He contacted me twice after the coup. Now, you judge. The reason I recount these facts is that he makes threats. Yesterday he threatened Zahir Shah. We knew each other on the battlefield. He threatened the moderates that it would be their last time. When Hazrat-e Sebghatullah Mojaddedi and Gaylani denied the matter, I believed them.

However, I announce to all the world: You, the moderates, the supporters of Zahir Shah should ask Gulbuddin: Despite the fact that you are groaning so much, how many times did you contact the government? Where

does he want me to reveal all details of the meeting? If he voluntarily announces it through the BBC, then I will contact those countries who were present as hosts and ask them, did he not ask me in your presence not to reveal the issue? Since he has now volunteered, therefore, we request from you, please do not be offended, as Gulbuddin has trampled on his word, we want to reveal this too. [sentence as heard] Where is the logic? All the efforts which were made were as instructed by their patrons and masters, the Pakistanis and pakistan's military intelligence. He cannot put them into practice. He has been defeated on every front. His aim is to conceal this inability and weakness, because the climate has changed inside the country—as mentioned in this gathering, the founding assembly—the people of Afghanistan are weary of war, the anti-revolution ranks do not favor war, and the opposition ranks do not want war, and we even have a more common language with the moderate opposition, as our logic is closer to theirs over issues such as democracy, and free elections; by means of our assemblies, our grand assemblies, we have more understanding with them—they do not want war, the intellectuals do not want it, the people in Europe and the West do not want it, and the supporters of Muhammad Zahir Shah do not want it. All of them want to resolve the issue by political means. Then Gulbuddin gets angry. Pakistan gets angry and [words indistinct].

Therefore, we go forward on our path with a firm will. Not only were such talks held with Gulbuddin, but also with almost all of them. We hope to advance in such a way. They should not be afraid of Gulbuddin; I revealed to them that he runs faster them everyone else. Then you might ask me why I have not come to an understanding with him? Why do I mention the moderate groups more? The reason is that ours and the national and popular principles are more common. We deal with those people. I tell you that we were not born to [word indistinct] over the national and historic principles of Afghanistan. [applause]

Therefore, dear compatriots, esteemed friends, our words are honest. There is no propaganda or political game in this respect. For, we have a great responsibility: that if peace can be established tomorrow, it should be established today. A question comes to my mind as an Afghan and a Muslim—that those people who accuse us, God forbid, of being infidels. Why are they lying so much? Why are they such double-dealers? They sat down with us, they talked with us. They requested an understanding from us and asked us not to reveal the matter. Then they go behind our back and put on another mask.

So what will you call them. Muslims? Afghans? I would like the BBC to invite him in person and ask him whether he is ready for meetings with delegations—with the grace of God, from our side, in every delegation we sent there were no less than three people. And two witnesses are sufficient for Muslims. And there was the host country, which was a mediator. How can he deny it? He should allow the peace process to have priority and to prevail, rather than the childish pugnacity which yielded no result for 12 years, by one count, up to two years after the withdrawal of the Soviet units.

In other words, war and bloodshed did not win. And I tell you even if someone won the war, there would be no winner. No one is a winner in a war but, in peace, even if a small step is taken, anyone who takes a step is a winner. [applause]

In our negotiations I took a sample from the most militant to the most moderate movements, so that the political solution will now be assessed as a principle. And our good fortune lies in the fact that from the outset we put forward this policy with subtle and scrupulous foresight, so that society [words indistinct]. There were those who were shortsighted and did not see every thing, but we, even from the darkness, in the midst of very difficult conditions, predicted that peace would eventually prevail and peace would be restored and the people of Afghanistan would be rid of this misery of war and an end would be put to these pains.

Well, the people of Afghanistan are with us, this policy is succeeding, steps are being taken in this direction in the world, so you notice which way all disputes are getting resolved. It means that we were right to claim that we have served the people of Afghanistan, not those who invite people to slaughterhouses, in this epoch, in these circumstances, in this world situation and the country's internal situation.

Dear friends, in recent months—I put forward this question—one of their spokesmen said yesterday on the BBC that Zahir Shah and Najib both should be punished for their deeds in a similar court of law. However, the approached us, saying they wanted to strike a deal: You allow Zahir Shah I will [words indistinct].

Now you judge what sort of politics you call this. Yet they claim the leadership of such a great country, with such historic treasures, with such honors and grandeur. How can they allow themselves to allege that they will assume the title of the leadership of this nation, this people, and this country? [words indistinct]. Had we accepted that compromise and rejected others and rejected national and popular principles of the people of Afghanistan and its historic heritage and the facts that are hidden in its history's treasury, Gulbuddin would have stood by our side long ago. Now he says that both of them shall be brought to justice.

Dear friends, we will notice, let this tribune be the witness, who will be brought to the court of the nation and the people of Afghanistan. And what justice will be passed by history on the leaders of those two opposite processes, war and peace.

None but the people of Afghanistan can pass judgment on that issue. All our striving and efforts are in that direction, as we now observe the support of the people. Our faces are clean before the people of Afghanistan and instead of, God forbid, having a black smear before the people and the history of Afghanistan.

Dear friends, over recent months positive developments have occured to make the atmosphere of international relations more sound. The improvement of East-West relations and increasing closeness of superpower stances on issues related to peace and security has created an atmosphere of further trust for world without war and short of tensions and [word indistinct].

We certainly support the development of those processes and also the increase in understanding between the states of the USSR and the United States as regards political solutions to regional disputes which will eventually lead to the political solution of disputes in our region and will help the restoration of peace in Afghanistan. I would like to note, while emphasizing the fact that the political solution of Afghan issues, in the first place, depends on the efforts and understanding of Afghans themelves, it should be noted that the foreign factor is also of importance in this respect. While we consider the defense of our country's independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty as our inviolable obligation, we should more than before understand the interest of neighboring countries and countries of the region in the issue of Afghanistan, and reply to them reasonably and in the framework of our national intersts.

We clearly declare that the implementation of the national reconciliation policy does not threaten the legitimate interests of any side or country. We support a balanced foreign policy and the expansion of friendly relations in political, trade, and cultural fields with all countries, and specially with neighboring countries.

Dear friends, an increasing trend in the United Staes for a political solution to the Afghan issue, like other regional problems, can be noticed under the impact of the improved international political atmosphere. Taking into account that the United States is one of the guarantors of the Geneva accords, it can play a principal role in a political solution to the Afghan problem. The existence of such a trend in that country is important. We expess gratitude for the UN Secretary General's good offices for his help with the restoration of peace in our country; we want further activation of good offices in keeping with the resolution of 45th Session of the UN General Assembly. The Republic of Afghanistan has presented a comprehensive mechanism for the political solution of the country's issues. During our meeting with the head of the European Section of the United Nations we discussed new complementary elements of the political mechanism. We are ready to take under scrupulous consideration constructive proposals to resolve other sides of the problem any time they are presented.

Dear friends, assessing briefly the recent months' development in the political situation in the world and also in our country it should be said that time serves the interest of national reconciliation and a political solution, and the future is with those forces that take urgent steps for the implementation of peace. Therefore it is necessary to search for the attainment of high national goals in the frame of total national understanding, simultaneous with scrupulous assessment of the new situation and newer and fresher means and methods.

In fact the meeting that I held with a number of our compatriots this month, was also centred on this issue. It is necesary on this occasion to voice gratitude to all our compatriots who with a sense national responsibility express their views clearly and bravely. No doubt their views helped us to better formulate our policies.

The esteemed representatives of the Peace Council of Afghanistan, as it is inferred from its objective, follows (?general) goals and duties and reflect the fact that, insistence on a military solution of issues not only does not ensure the interests of any involved group or force, but poses a serious threat to the very existence of our common country.

[Words indistinct] main characteristics of the Afghanistan Peace Front is that its participants, despite differences in political vision and the maintaining of its identity and organizational independence, carry out joint activities for attainment to national interests [word indistinct]. The procedure and internal relations of the Afghanistan Peace Front, which is the manifestation of its internal life, enshrines the activities of the front on the basis of the provisions of our sacred religion, the developing and current traditions of the people's internal struggle, and on the grounds of responsible thoughts for the salvation of the country from war, for the ensuring and consolidation of national unity and the maintenance of the country's high interests. The norms of democracy, and the observance of the principle of democratic decision-making have been included in the document as essential principles.

As is clarified in the objectives of the Peace Front of Afghanistan, the Peace Front puts the high interests of the people of Afghanistan before any party, organizational, class, tribal, and other interests, and acts as the center of all political and national forces. It gives no preference to any political party or organization and it recognizes no monopoly of any of them.

By the same token, we should consider one fact—that is, that if we reach the most advanced stage of a political solution and make preparations for parliamentary elections, then a national party would win more seats, I think, naturally, its role in social and political affairs and even in [words indistinct] should be greater. Five votes against 80 votes; 10 votes against 150 votes [passage indistinct].

And if we say that in proportion with the weight of a party that has 200,000 members, its area of its influence, its rallying power - in this war stage its defensive power in the protection of independence and territorial integrity of the country and in other needs it has the upper hand, so that in that case fairness should exist among all united political forces so that prestige is conceded for a party in the society in proportion to its role and its influence [as heard]. We justifiably have this expectation. This important principle has also been included in

the objectives that every child in the country—regardless of his political, social, national, and local origins, and regardless of which side he supported during the war years—can join the Afghanistan Peace Front.

Such an attitude really opens without discrimination the way for all peace forces and expands the Peace Front's social base. The objectives are also a manifestation of the important principle that parties and political and social organizations, by becoming members of the Peace Front, do not lose their legal identity—they keep their freedom of thought and organization when obtaining collective membership of the front, and are only obliged to observe the objectives of the front and the decisions of the Front's supreme organ.

It is matter of pleasure that the Front has based its activities and objectives on the principles of democracy and equal, universal, secret, and direct elections, the ensuring of social justice in line with the orders of the sacred religion of Islam, the ensuring of national unity, and finally the restoration of peace in our war- weary country. As can be seen, the Peace Front has a farsighted attitude toward the gathering and joint action of all forces, circles, and personalities and has not set up any restriction on the consent of all forces to secure national unity in the whole of Afghanistan. In my opinion the Peace Front, which has acquired requisite experience from the positive and negative sides of the National Front, will be able to play an appropriate role in the cessation of war and the restoration of peace in the country and carry out fruitful activities to put an end to the miseries of the people of Afghanistan and help the economic reconstruction of the country.

Taking into account the peaceful inclination of the people of Afghanistan, new and hopeful horizons can now be seen in the future activity of the Peace Front. Having specific national identity and full independence, the Peace Front, in line with its objectives and via various contacts, must open up channels to political forces inside and outside the country and pave the way toward attaining its high goals, and in fact toward attaining the goals of the people of Afghanistan.

The economic, social, political and cultural duties of the Peace Front have been set out in line with the national interests of the country. Thereby the Peace Front, whose basic goal is to strive for the ensuring of peace, will be able to fulfill its effective activities in other fields of socio-economic life of the country. The state of the Republic of Afghanistan provides all requisite possibilities and facilities for the effective fulfillment of the Front's duties and goals and for its members, and will spare no effort in this respect. We appreciate the activities of the National Front of the Republic of Afghanistan that it mounted to bring together all pro-peace and national reconciliation forces. In my opinion, the National Front accomplished its duties in proportion to its possibilities.

We call on all parties and political and social organizations, all personalities, commanders of armed opposition groups, and refugees to support the Peace Front as a powerful national movement, and convert it into an independent peace front and the country's reconstruction front.

Allow me to express confidence that the Peace Front will be able to play its due part in achieving peace and national understanding and will enjoy the confidence of the whole nation as an active peaceful and struggling force. I pray to God to bestow success on you in attaining your great national goals. And success comes from God.

Bangladesh

President To Resign as Unrest Continues

Resignation Plan Announced

BK0312164390 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] President Ershad has announced that he will hand over power to a neutral vice president in consultation with political parties and alliances to pave the way for an impartial election. Addressing the nation over radio and television a short while ago, he said he will resign 15 days before the filing of nomination papers (?before) the elections to be held under the acting president. He said both parliamentary and presidential elections will be held on the same day. The present parliament will be dissolved after election of the vice president under the ninth amendment of the Constitution. All political parties will be given balanced coverage by state radio (?as well as) radio and television. The state of emergency will be lifted by the 16th of this month to facilitate election campaign. The president said foreign observers will be allowed to monitor the election. Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter has accepted an invitation to come as an observer. British parliamentarians have also been invited.

All educational institutions, including Dhaka University, will be reopened on the 17th of this month. Press censorship has already been withdrawn.

President Ershad called upon political parties and alliances to talk with his nominated persons for implementation of these decisions.

Press Censorship Withdrawn

BK0312145990 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1430 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Press censorship has been withdrawn in view of the improvement in the overall situation in the country. Official sources said that the government today decided to withdraw the press censorship imposed under Section 18/1 of the Special Powers Act of 1974 effective immediately. Censorship was imposed when the state of emergency was proclaimed last Tuesday night [27 November].

Death Reports Called 'Exaggerated'

BK3011163090 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] A (?spokesman) in Dhaka has described as highly exaggerated the foreign media reports about deaths following the imposition of emergency in Bangladesh on the 27th of this month. A press note issued tonight says that foreign media reports may create confusion in the minds of the public and as such the government thinks it necessary to explain the correct position. The press note says five people were killed and (?several) others were wounded [words indistinct]. Again two were killed during clashes with security forces for violation of curfew on the 28th of this month. Two others were killed by gunfire (?from) rival parties the same day. Yesterday, another man was killed by gunfire from rival parties. The concerned police stations have taken necessary measures under the existing rules in every case. The government hopes these information will help remove all misgivings from the minds of the concerned people.

Ershad Defends State of Emergency

BK0212161290 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] President Ershad has reiterated that it is the responsibility of every government to protect the life and property of the people; and with this end in view, a state of emergency has been declared in the country. It is not aimed at suppressing political actitivities.

Addressing officers and troops of the Bangladesh Rifles [BDR] at BDR headquarters in Dhaka this afternoon, he said what was going on in the country for the past one and a half months was not normal political activity. Destruction of public and private property, extortion of money from the people, and the attempt to jeopardize public life cannot be termed as political activities. These are calculated attempts to cripple the country's economy, stop production, and make life of the people miserable.

President Ershad said there were political movements also in the past, but never before the country had seen such attempts to destroy public and private property in a planned manner. He said if this sort of violence and destructive activities are allowed to continue, none will be able to live in the country peacefully.

Lauding the role of the law enforcing agencies, including the BDR, for maintaining law and order in recent times, President Ershad stressed the need for people's awareness against the trouble-mongers to keep peace and normalcy in the society. President Ershad asked the BDR and other law enforcing agencies to deal with the miscreants firmly but not with cruelty.

Recalling his past association with the BDR, the president said he becomes happy and proud when something good and commendable is done by the BDR. He hoped the BDR personnel would continue to come forward to perform their duties in the future whenever necessary.

Home Minister Mahmudul Hasan and Director General of BDR Major General Abdul Latif were present.

President Ershad had a meeting with the ministers, advisers, and state ministers at the International Conference Center in Dhaka this morning. The present situation in the country was discussed at the meeting.

Curfew Reimposed in Four Cities

BK0212161690 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Curfew was reimposed in the cities of Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, and Rajshahi from 1800 this evening. The curfew will be relaxed for 15 hours from 0600 to 2100 tomorrow.

A government press note issued in Dhaka said during the curfew relaxation period from 0600 to 1800 today in the cities of Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, and Rajshahi, the law and order situation throughout the country was normal. However, some unruly mobs tried to demolish some shops and set fire to a number of houses at New Market and Elephant Road areas today. But their attempts have been foiled by the timely intervention of the law enforcing agencies. With the improvement in the situation, the government hopes that the people would extend all-out cooperation in further improving law and order situation in the country, the press added.

Dhaka Mayor Resigns

BK0212163990 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] The government has appointed Barrister Abul Hasnat mayor of the Dhaka City Corporation. Earlier, Mr. Mohammad Naziur Rahman tendered his resignation as mayor of the corporation.

Bomb Blasts Injure Several

BK0312154490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1533 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Dhaka, Dec 3 (AFP)—President Hussain Mohammad Ershad was scheduled to address the Bangladeshi people late Monday after a day of violence in which troops wounded more than 30 protestors. [passage omitted]

The announcement that he would address the nation came after troops opened fire on anti-government protestors earlier in the day, injuring at least 30 people in the port of Chittagong, witnesses said. [passage omitted.]

Many of the injured were rushed to nearby clinics, witnesses said, adding that several policemen hurt in a bomb blast were being treated at the port city's combined Medical College Hospital.

Two bombs also went went off at Bangladesh's main Kamlapur railway station and near the central Bangladesh bank.

Sheikh Hasina Wajed of the leading opposition Awami League in a statement claimed that more than 100 people have died and 500 political workers have been arrested by the government since the current anti-government campaign began on October 10. Authorities have acknowledged only six deaths.

The rightist Jamaat-E-Islami political party claimed that 60 people have been killed since the imposition of a state of emergency on November 27.

A 16-year-old student meanwhile died from wounds inflicted on Thursday during clashes with security agencies in Southern Chandpur District, witnesses said, adding that some 10,000 people joined his burial ceremony.

After the burial, an angry mob ransacked government and ruling Jatiya Party offices. Unconfirmed reports said some of them were completely gutted.

The announcement that Mr. Ershad would address the nation followed a meeting between him and the chiefs of the army, navy and the deputy chief of the air force.

Mr. Ershad also met policemen at the Rajarbagh police headquarters and urged them to be tough with agitators, but not to be "rough." [passage omitted]

Strikes, Other Actions Detailed

BK0112122290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1213 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Dhaka, Dec 1 (AFP)—[passage omitted] Curfew was reimposed in Dhaka and three major districts from 4:00 P.M. (1000 GMT) until further notice, state-run Radio Bangladesh said. [passage omitted]

Thirty-two people have been treated in the emergency wing of the Chittagong Medical College Hospital since Friday, mostly with bullet wounds, hospital sources said. Eight were admitted to hospital but the doctors strike was hindering treatment, they said. Doctors began an indefinite strike Tuesday when one of their colleagues was shot dead at the Dhaka University campus and have refused to return to work until the fall of Mr. Ershad's government.

Protestors filled Chittagong streets as opposition activists staged marches and set off firecrackers throughout the city. In the western sub-district of Rajbari, activists stormed government offices and threw out portraits of Mr. Ershad, which are hung in nearly all government offices in Bangladesh, residents said by telephone.

Meanwhile, the three major opposition alliances drew up plans for the next 12 days, begining with a nationwide demonstration Sunday against what they called "autocracy."

The opposition is to hold a large rally in downtown Dhaka Tuesday and form people's revolutionary councils in dictricts, sub-districts and villages, opposition sources said. They also plan a 72-hour blockade of roads and railways from December 10, but "all programs (will) be held depending on the situation," one opposition leader said.

"We call on government employees not to cooperate with the present regime," he said, adding that no vehicles except pedicabs would be permitted on the roads from Sunday. Explaining the exemption, he said: "We do not want the poor pedicab drivers to starve."

Earlier Saturday, university sources said several hundred students held a protest march at Dhaka University and clashed with police and Army troops before returning to their dormitories in defiance of a government order to evacuate the campus.

Most offices in the capital were either closed or operating with a skeleton staff, while shops remained shuttered and only vegetable stalls were still doing business.

Road and rail links were broken between Dhaka and Chittagong after opposition activists damaged a bridge near Barakunda district, residents reached by telephone said. Activists also set up roadblocks in parts of Chittagong and set ablaze two government-owned buses and a private car during demonstrations that left 200 people injured, including 50 policemen, they said.

According to opposition sources, police have detained 500 people in Chittagong for curfew violations and "on political grounds."

Radio Bangladesh said a maximum of five people had been killed since Mr. Ershad declared the state of emergency four days ago. "Reports of five deaths have so far been received in different incidents," the radio quoted an official statement as saying. Figures circulated by the foreign media were "highly exaggerated and misleading," it added.

Sheik Hasina Wajed, leader of the opposition Awami League, earlier said 50 people were gunned down and hundreds injured across Bangladesh when troops opened fire to quell demonstrators Wednesday.

A Dhaka University teacher said some 300 teachers at Jahangirnagar University, in nearby Savar district, had resigned to protest the state of emergency. Teachers in Rajshahi district, Chittagong and at Dhaka Engineering University were also resigning, he said. Teachers from Dhaka University had earlier resigned to protest the government's decision to close all schools across Bangladesh as part of the state of emergency.

Newspapers failed to hit the stands for the fourth consecutive day as journalists continued with a news blackout. Telexes and telephone lines of international news agencies and newspapers were not operating late Friday.

Meanwhile, the chief of Army staff, Lieutenant General M. Nuruddin Khan returned home Saturday from a four-day visit to Saudi Arabia, Radio Bangladesh said.

Lt. Gen. Khan met with Bangladeshi troops stationed in the Kingdom as part of the U.S.-led multinational force deployed in the Gulf and held talks with various officials and Saudi leaders, the radio said.

'Isolated Incidents' Reported

BK0112170290 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] A press note issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs says some isolated incidents took place today during the curfew relaxation hours in the Dhaka metropolitan area, but the situation was brought under control with the timely step taken by the law enforcing agency. At 1030 [0430 GMT] in the morning, an unruly mob tried to set fire to several places near Poorabi Cinema Hall at Mirpur. But the security forces [words indistinct]. A bullet-hit body was found at the place of the occurrence when the situation was under control. Police stations concerned have taken legal steps in this regard. At 1400 in the afternoon, several people entered the government office at (Nelkap), [words indistinct] and set four micro buses parked inside the premises on fire. [words indistinct] but at (Nelbari), a group of unruly people ransacked the government office. With the timely action of the police, the situation became normal. The press note adds that it is the moral responsibility of the government to protect the life and property of the people. The government is determined to take any step to maintain law and order. It hopes that the concerned quarters will extend all-out cooperation in maintaining law and order in the country.

Troops Open Fire on Marchers

BK0312101090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1003 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Chittagong, Bangladesh, Dec 3 (AFP)—At least 30 people were injured, 10 critically, here Monday when troops opened fire on a group of demonstrators, witnesses said.

Some 3,000 demonstrators, including students, marched near the new market in defiance of emergency orders and briefly clashed with police and paramilitary forces, they said, adding that troops suddenly opened fire at the rampaging demonstrators.

Harsh Treatment of Protesters Reported

BK0312093190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] The Bangladesh president, General Ershad, has ordered the security forces to deal harshly with demonstrators. In a brodcast on the state television, he described the protestors as miscreants. The order has come in the wake of 21 opposition parties and the Islamic fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami deciding to go on strike for eight hours every day from tomorrow.

Agency reports say the situation in Bangladesh continues to be very grim. Large contingents of police have been posted at universities, colleges, mosques, and important crossings in the capital city, Dhaka. All roads in Dhaka wore a deserted look. However, official announcements on television and radio claimed that the situation is normal.

UN Envoy Urges Iraq To Obey Resolution

BK0112130090 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Bangladesh has appealed to Iraq to abide by the Security Council Resolution urging Iraq to desist from altering the demographic composition of Kuwait. Taking part in the Security Council debate on the issue, Bangladesh's permanent envoy for the UN, A.H.E. Mohiuddin said that Bangladesh, with the rest of the international community, was shocked and pained at the distress of the innocents in Kuwait. He said there is no way these breaches of human rights can be condoned. The Bangladesh envoy appealed to Iraq to respond positively [word indistinct] urging world community and said all forcible occupation is wrong and it is the bounden duty of the international community to protect all population in any occupied territory.

India

Shekhar Urges Peaceful Solution To Gulf Crisis

BK3011163690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, has said a peaceful solution should be found to the Gulf crisis; otherwise, there would be disastrous consequences. He said no small nation should be subjugated by any another nation by use of force. The prime minister was speaking at a reception held by the Indian Council of World Affairs in New Delhi.

Mr. Chandra Shekhar said there is an urgent need to reduce the growing gap between the rich and the poor nations. The affluent countries should have a better understanding of the problems faced by the developing world. This will help reduce tensions.

He said within the country also urgent steps are required to remove regional imbalances and to provide a better deal to the weaker sections. He said there should be efforts to build a new atmosphere of peace and trust so that the country can march toward progress and prosperity.

Spokesman Welcomes Bush Peace Talks Offer

BK0212163690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] India has welcomed the U.S. initiative to begin talks with Iraq on resolving the Gulf crisis. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today

that India is concerned about what will happen in the event of a war. It could cause untold devastation throughout the region. He said that India was of the view that a continuing pursuit of a peaceful negotiated solution to the problem is the best way to restore international peace and security in the area. Therefore, he said, New Delhi welcomes the invitation extended by President Bush to the Iraqi foreign minister, Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, to come to Washington and his offer to send his secretary of state, Mr. James Baker, to Baghdad for talks. The spokesman also recalled that India has on more than one occasion called for the unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait and restoration of sovereignty and independence of Kuwait. He pointed out that India had in letter and spirit abided by the mandatory UN Security Council resolution on imposing sanctions against Iraq despite the economic burden imposed on India as a consequence.

Israeli Withdrawal From Arab Territories Urged

BK0112083490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] India has asked Israel to abandon its ill-conceived dream of greater Israel and withdraw from all Arab territories occupied by it, including Jerusalem. Speaking at the UN General Assembly, India's representative, Mr. Indrajit, said Israel must forsake the path of confrontation, which only breeds violence, and come to terms with the legitimacy of Palestine. Welcoming the new spirit shown by the Security Council in dealing with aggression, Mr. Indrajit said peace is indivisible and none should be allowed to enjoy the fruits of aggression. He said a world order of peace and security will remain only a cherished objective until threats of conflict and instability emanating from West Asia are wholly rooted out.

Shekhar Says State Will Not Give In to Violence

Rejects Threats

BK0112090890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] The prime minister has said that India wants to live in peace and does not want its jawans [soldiers] to fire a single bullet. He, however, warned that the government cannot be cowed down or the country's prestige lowered under threats of bullets. Mr. Chandra Shekhar was speaking at the BSF [Border Security Force] silver jubilee raising day parade in the capital today. The prime minister spoke about the multifaceted role of the BSF and commended it for its contribution in protecting the country's unity and integrity.

Referring to the dangers being faced by the country, he expressed the confidence that the future of the country is safe in their hands. The prime minister also mentioned about the difficult conditions under which the BSF operates and said it has done a commendable work, particularly in Punjab, Kashmir, and Assam. Paying tributes to those who have laid down their lives for the country's honor, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said their sacrifices will not go waste as they have inspired others to be ready to make the supreme sacrifice. Stressing the country's pride, the prime minister assured the BSF personnel that the whole nation is behind them and the government will do everything possible to mitigate their difficulties. The prime minister honored 80 BSF personnel and presented them medals for their gallantry and distinguished services. He reviewed the parade and took salute at an impressive march past in which about 900 BSF personnel drawn from various frontiers took part. Those present on the occasion included the minister of state for home affairs, Mr. Subodh Kant Sahay; and several former directors general of the Border Security Force.

In his message on the occasion, the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, commended the force for guarding the nation's borders, checking smuggling, and combating terrorism. He expressed his confidence that it will continue to work with added zeal and dedication in safeguarding the integrity of the country.

Cites Negotiations

BK0112161990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] The prime minister has expressed confidence that the proposed kar seva [community service to build Hindu temple] in Ayodhya will pass off peacefully in view of the attitude shown by the parties concerned. In an informal chat with news persons during his brief stopover at Amausi Airport in Lucknow today, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said that serious efforts are on for a negotiated settlement to the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid issue. He said the chief ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and Gujarat are in constant touch with the parties involved to find an amicable settlement to the issue. About the formula put forward by the Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, the prime minister said that the suggestions are very good.

Mr. Chandra Shekhar expressed grave concern over the recent killings in Punjab. He said there is no plan to hand over Punjab to the Army.

In reply to another question, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said he will expand his council of ministers in a few weeks.

Prime Minister on National Problems, Gulf

BK0112125990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1546 GMT 30 Nov 90

["Special" interview with Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar by Surajit Sen on the "Spotlight" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Surajit Sen] What about the burning problem of Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [temple-mosque dispute], sir?

[Shekhar] This problem can be solved only by mutual understanding, negotiation, and social reconciliation.

We should have the spirit of accommodation. I shall appeal to all people, and especially the people concerned with the Ram Janmabhoomi and Babri Masjid, that they should come to some understanding. If this understanding is not possible, then the only other course open is that we should respect the judicial verdict. But I am quite confident that with proper approach, we can come to some understanding and the matter can be solved by mutual consent.

[Surajit Sen] Punjab and J and K [Jammu and Kashmir] issues, sir?

[Shekhar] There also I feel that we should be ready to talk with everybody who is Indian. Howsoever extreme views he or she might be having, I am not swayed by the extreme view of individuals. Sometimes people, because of anger, anguish and frustration, talk in extreme language; but we should not be taken away. I am ready to talk and discuss with any person whatsoever their demand may be; but only one thing I am against: killing people. Killing is killing. Death is death whether it comes from the bullet of the terrorist or bullet of the police. So this should stop. I don't want that anybody should be coerced to silence; but, equally, I shall like to appeal all those people who have taken arms for the solution of the problem that the state authority cannot be coerced to a situation by use of bullets, and, in the same way, I think, that the state should not have the tendency to silence people by using bullets. So this should go, since nonviolence is the (?trait) of this country as was given to us in heritage by Mahatma Gandhi; and I think if we can fight the imperialists by this method, we can solve all the complicated problems by mutual negotiations, discussions, and persuasion.

[Surajit Sen] Pakistan, irrespective of its pious utterances, continues to help spread chaos in Punjab, Jammu, and Kashmir. How do you intend to solve this problem, sir?

[Shekhar] I shall not like to comment on this aspect because you know that whatever Pakistan might be doing, Pakistan is a part of the subcontinent. This subcontinent is the area of poverty. So with Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, or any other country, we will have to live in tranquillity and peace. If we fight among each other, we cannot fight against poverty. This is what I impressed upon our friends in the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit, and I am glad that the response was quite intuitive and quite favorable. Some confusion is being created because of certain propaganda that is being carried by certain interested people.

Even at my SAARC conference and good meeting (?I held) with the prime minister of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif, so many things came into focus. I got a call from Nawaz Sharif and he told me that all this propaganda is just to vitiate the atmosphere that we wanted to create.

I assure you that we should go on the path that we decided for ourselves and if there is any confusion because of the propaganda in the press, we should clear it out by talking together. This was a gesture I would welcome and I shall not go by the propaganda that [words indistinct] in the press or in the media.

[Surajit Sen] The Gulf crisis. Do you think this problem will see a peaceful end?

[Shekhar] We want that this should have a peaceful end, because if the peaceful solution does not come, situation will worsen and it will have impact not only on the Arab countries but on the whole world, especially upon us. So India must try every possible means to find a peaceful solution of this problem. There are some indications that people want a peaceful solution, and India will play her role in this effort.

[Surajit Sen] Prices continue to rise well beyond and above the earning capacity of an average citizen. And this in turn makes life more and more difficult for him. Mr. Prime Minister, has the government thought of positive steps to check this phenomenal rise in the cost of living which the Gulf crisis has also aggravated even further?

[Chandra Shekhar] This is the most disturbing trend. Inflation is increasing every day. The Gulf crisis has added to our problems. The government has already taken up this issue, and we are devising ways and means to bring down the prices. It is not going to be an easy task; but every effort is being made to bring down prices, at least of some of the essential commodities. It will not be possible to bring down prices all along the lines; but some of the essential commodities that are going to have an impact on the life of the common man or wage-earning group—that will be surely brought down in a short time.

[Surajit Sen] Mr. Prime Minister, would you like to spell that out even further—the commodities particularly you are thinking of bringing down prices?

[Chandra Shekhar] There are three, four things which should be brought down. Fortunately, cereal prices have not gone up beyond its point. Prices of edible oil, cement, sugar, and some other essential commodities have gone up. We have taken steps in that direction that the prices of these commodities should be brought down. The only difficulty we are facing is in bringing down the prices of edible oil, because that is a matter to be imported and we have a problem of foreign exchange. So, that is a little ticklish problem. On other fronts, we can do something.

[Surajit Sen] Population explosion which continues to go on unchecked, and in turn causes further problem of unemployment, particularly amongst the youth. What steps does government propose to take to improve the quality of life of the masses and those afflicted by this disease?

[Chandra Shekhar] We have to take two major steps in this direction: one, literacy, and literacy especially among the womenfolk. Unfortunately, our girls are not

getting education; and if there is no education among the girls in this country, you cannot effectively implement the idea of birth control. The other is: We will have to provide basic amenities for health programs. We have not been able to provide even the primary health services to our rural folk, and people are not sure about the longevity of their children. So, that is another factor. These are the two things. In these two areas, the government will have to move in a major way, and then try persuasion and try to educate the people about the dangers of population growth and its impact upon the future of this country.

[Surajit Sen] Mr. Prime Minister, about the economically backward people. How do you propose to give them the necessary education to compete with the more elite society? Is the government thinking of any positive steps to really bring them up?

[Chandra Shekhar] No, we have been thinking about this, but it is too short a period for me to spell out a definite plan. But I agree with you that unless and until they are provided better facility for education, they cannot be brought up to the standard of other sections of the society, whatsoever we do in the term of giving reservation in services and all that. So our first attention should be to give them better education, and for that we shall have to provide better educational facilities through institutions which are especially earmarked for taking care of the rural areas and economically and socially backward people in this country.

[Surajit Sen] There is a view that some politicians have, for their own selfish ends, tried to divide society into various compartments, that is, caste, urban, rural, religion; and this is creating a dangerous trend for the integrity of the country. Mr. Prime Minister, would you care to comment on this?

[Chandra Shekhar] Poverty is a curse. Whether it belongs to one caste or the other, every poor man suffers [words indistinct] because of poverty. So we should not discriminate among the poor. That should not be our (?trend), but some basic facts of life should not be ignored.

Because of an obsolete caste system, it is unfortunate that some of the castes which are backward also are economically backward. This is the reality of life, and we should not ignore it. So, the discrimination of caste has been persisting in our society. We should try to do away with it not only by giving them better facilties or special privileges but by educating the people that caste system (?disunites) the society.

About religion, this is a new trend. Not a new trend, but this trend has been accentuated during last few months because people think that religion can play the role to give a dividend in politics. This trend should be discouraged.

Unfortunately, regional imbalances have been there in this country, and when in 1950 Jawaharlal Nehru thought of planned economy, a planned development of the economy, he said that regional imbalances will create problems for the future of this country. We should have done something to correct this imbalance in the regional progress and prosperity. Unfortunately, this was not done. Even now, time is there. We should try to respond favorably to the regional aspirations of those people who have remained backward because of certain geographical or other factors.

[Surajit Sen] One often hears about the committed bureaucracy; and with the change of government at the center and the states, this aspect is highlighted. Would you say this freedom is justified?

[Chandra Shekhar] I have been not of this view from the very beginning. I have been of the opinion and with my experience of only few weeks, I can say that bureaucrats can do wonders if given the clear ideas. If politicians are confused and they have no clear vision what they want to achieve, there is bound to be more confusion among the bureaucrats. The confusion or the distortions that are seen in the functioning of the bureaucracy is because of pervading confusion among the politicians who are expected to give clear-cut ideas to the bureaucracy. I think it is not proper to pass on the blame to bureaucrats. Bureaucrats cannot afford to ignore the advice or direction or whatever suggestion of the politicians but they should not try to mix up things because of other motivations rather than the administration.

[Surajit Sen] Thank you very much, Mr. Prime Minister.

Meeting Held To Resolve Temple-Mosque Dispute

BK0112163890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Excerpts] A joint meeting of representatives of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [VHP—World Hindu Council] and the Babri Masjid [Mosque] Action Committee, and chief ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra was held in New Delhi today. The meeting decided to make all-out efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [temple-mosque] issue. [passage omitted]

Later, in a press release, the VHP leader, Acharya Giriraj Kishore, welcomed the statement of the Shahi Imam of Jama Masjid [chief prayer leader of the Delhi Grand Mosque], Syed Abdullah Bukhari, read out at the meeting, that the Muslims are not against the construction of a Ram temple. He reiterated that the kar seva [voluntary community service] for the construction of the temple will start on the 6th of this month.

The All India Babri Masjid Action Committee has expressed satisfaction over its talks with the VHP representatives to solve the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid issue. Addressing newsmen in New Delhi this evening, the committee's convener, Mr. Javed Habib, described the joint meeting as a step forward to achieve a peaceful solution of the issue. He said the action committee has convened an all-India conference to consider and take

action on various issues relating to minorities. Mr. Habib denied any differences among the members of the action committee.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] general secretary, Mr. Krishna Lal Sharma, has underlined the need to find a permanent solution to the Ayodhya issue. He said if the problem is kept hanging, tension is bound to increase. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, Mr. Sharma said that the formula suggested by the Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, for resolving the issue is no solution.

Efforts To Solve Disputed Shrine Issue Continue

BK0212073990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] The prime minister has said that both the central and the Uttar Pradesh governments are making efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine] issue. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said the issue is to be resolved in an atmosphere of trust and no unconstitutional act of violence will be tolerated from any quarter. There is total coordination between the center and the state goverment on the issue, he said. The prime minister was talking to newsmen at (Babadpur) Airport in Varanasi yesterday. Mr. Chandra Shekhar supported the U.P. [Uttar Pradesh] government's action in Ayodhya on the 30th of October and second of last month, saying that it is the responsibility of the state government to maintain law and order. He hoped that the proposed Kar Seva [community service to build Hindu temple] in Ayodhya on Thursday [6 December] will pass off peacefully.

Speaking on the Mandal Commission report, the prime minister said that he is not against reservation on caste basis but felt that economically backward people should also be given reservation. He appealed to the youths not to take any wrong step on the issue. On Punjab, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said he is ready to talk to the misguided persons to solve the problem.

Addressing senior officers of the Varanasi Divison at Varanasi, the prime minister said the center will provide special fund to the economic development of the eastern region of Uttar Pradesh. He said even after 40 years of independence, regional disparities still exist in the country and the poor have become poorer. There is no lack of resources, but these have not been utilised properly, Mr. Chandra Shekhar added.

Gandhi Suggests Formula To Settle Shrine Dispute

BK0112133890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] The Congress-I has suggested a new formula to resolve the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [temple-mosque] dispute. In a letter to the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, the party president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, said a commission of inquiry should be appointed to determine whether a temple was destroyed to build a mosque at the disputed place in Ayodhya. He said the key issue to the dispute is ascertaining of the historical fact to the satisfaction of reasonable and secular-minded persons of all communities.

The commission, he said, should comprise five sitting judges of the Supreme Court selected by the chief justice on a representative basis, suggesting a three-month time limit for its verdict. Mr. Gandhi said such a commission will have the right to summon witnesses, examine experts, and undertake any relevant studies.

The Congress-I president noted that the Ayodhya temple issue was now pending before a special bench of the Allahabad High Court and said one of the issues being looked into by the court is also the historical facts. He said the government should ascertain whether the law permits the appointment of the commission on a matter which is subjudice, but the Supreme Court had in the past ruled that there would be no such bar. Alternatively, he said, the government should invoke Article 138 of the Constitution to vest the Supreme Court with enlarged jurisdiction to decide the issue as the proceedings before the Allahabad High Court are bound to take time.

Mr. Rajiv Gandhi also said that as a part of the overall settlement of the issue, the government should consider enacting a law prohibiting any change in the status of places of public worship from the day the Constitution came into force.

Spelling out the Congress-I stand, he said his party is for building the Ram temple, but the work should start with the approval and support of all concerned. He wanted the government to convene a meeting of the all important religious heads to consider the immediate and long-term aspects of the issues involved.

Angry Mob Stones V.P. Singh, Janata Dal Leaders

BK0212124690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] An angry mob threw stones on the former prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh; the Janata Dal president, Mr. S.R. Bommai; and some Janata leaders at the Bhopal railway station today. About 20 people, including some policemen, were injured. As a protest, Mr. V.P. Singh sat on dharna in front of the residence of the Madhya Pradesh chief minister, Mr. Sunderlal Patwa. Later, talking to newsmen, Mr. V.P. Singh alleged that the state police did not act quickly during the stone throwing incident. The chief minister denied the allegation and said that adequate police arrangements were made.

Measures To Contain Budgetary Deficit Announced

BK0212074190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Government has announced several measures to contain the budgetary deficit. An official press release, issued in New Delhi last evening, said all entertainments

at government's cost and the practice of holding conferences and other functions in hotels have been discontinued. Expenditure on telephone and electricity is to be reduced by 10 percent. The 20-percent cut in the consumption of petroleum and diesel, as already announced, is to be strictly adhered to. A ban on the purchase of new vehicles for official use has also been imposed till the end of March. The above measures will come into force with immediate effect and will apply to all governmnet offices, public sector undertakings, autonomous and statutory bodies funded by the government partially or wholly, the press release said.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delivers Friday Prayers

LD3011184190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1130 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Friday prayers sermon delivered by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 30 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Since we are now rulers and since Islam is on the agenda as a guide to life, as a school of thought that is controlling the management of society, we must make the people, especially the younger groups, forget those discussions and advice that they have heard. They must forget those that say that if they want to be Muslims, then they should bear difficulties, pain, and sufferings; those who say they must live in poverty and in a state where their desires are suppressed. This spirit, if it exists, must be corrected. Of course, this problem may not be widespread. The majority of people know that Islam has no suppressing ideas, but the reality is that there are those who still think that if they want to be a good Muslim, they should definitely have problems and suffer from certain limitations. [passage omitted]

There are certain needs that are in our nature. This is a clear point. It has been on the agenda in the sermons and the sayings of the learned. In our schools, our children read about these matters. All society accepts this. God has created certain needs in the human being and he does not want them left unanswered. Our instincts have been created on a calculated basis. They must be administered in a calculated way. God guides men and gives them a firm religion through which he guides the tendencies within the soul of human beings. [passage omitted]

Those who want to suppress these human tendencies are not on the right path. This is not the path of nature. Those who think that they should leave humans free, without any restrictions, so that they may use their tendencies as much as they like without any commitments, they too are mistaken. This is not practical anywhere in the world. The tendencies and instinctive desires of human beings know no bounds. They are unending, just like the human soul, just like the evolutionary movement of human beings. [passage omitted]

One of the finer instincts that we share with animals is admiring beauty. This is one of the serious instincts of human beings. God has put this sense into all humans so that they should be attracted and love beautiful sights and hate ugly scenes. Different natures may disagree on what defines beauty, but certain things are beautiful for all; other things are appealing to some people. However, the sense of admiring beauty and being attractive is a serious one. If it did not exist, humans would not have evolved. This is a fact. If we oppose adornments and beauty, we are struggling against nature, struggling against human nature. God does not want this. [passage omitted]

On the issue of the sexual instinct that God has put in humans, we imagine that is good if we suppress ourselves, endure frustrations, and be patient in our sexual desires. This is not correct. It is wrong. In fact, this kind of thinking is anti-Islamic. On the whole, the culture of our society has become that many think, for whatever reason, that if they do not satisfy their sexual instincts, they are pious people, healthy people, patient, and Islamic. I, as one of the officials of this country, am responsible for this. Yes, they are all these things if they were suppressing forbidden acts. The culture of our society says that if our children, our youth, are going to observe piety, if they are to uphold surface morals, they must be deprived of their sexual desires until they are 25 or 30 years old, until they have made a home and a life for themselves. We know that when a child reaches 15, when he or she becomes sexually mature, a serious desire forms in the body. God has not said that this need must not be met. This desire has bad physical and psychological effects, science has proved this. Many complexes are formed within humans from this deprivation. God and the religion have really and simply sorted the problem out in the society. During the time of the Prophet it was the simplest of tasks. There are in the society thousands, hundreds of thousands, and maybe millions of women who are without guardians—widows, divorcees, and those who have not yet married. They are condemned to remain as they are until they die. Some of them have married once; now they are divorced or their husbands have died. Why is it rude for a lady to marry twice in her lifetime? Or to have a temporary relationship—temporary marriage—with someone else? What sort of a rule is this? In our lives, we cannot be promiscuous like the Westerners. We do not need to be like that. Our Islam has put forward the correct path for you. Our students should not be forced to live under the pressure of sexual desires because of life's conditions. Boys and girls are studying together in universities in one classroom. In apartment blocks, young men and women are living under one roof. They travel together in buses and taxis; they are together in parks. They are constantly in contact with each other. Their sexual desires are excited and aggrevated. If they do not have a way to rescue themselves from this pressure, then who says that this situation is right? God has not said so, the Prophet has not said so, the Koran has not said so, Islamic ethics have not said so, the world does not say anything of the

sort. We have created a wrong culture in our minds as a standard custom and it has become rude for anyone to express his sexual desires. Just because a few louts are abusing the institution of temporary marriage, suddenly the whole idea of temporary marriage becomes a taboo in our society. This is not correct. This is fighting nature. This is not healthy. [passage omitted]

I was in a religious seminary myself. Our seminarians, these young fellows were, until they were older, under sexual pressure. Our students and soldiers are in the same situation. There are plenty of widowed women in society who are in the same situation. None of this is right. If we did not have a way out, we would not say anything. We would have to accept what God has said. But I have told you, this is not the law, this is not an order from the rulers. No court has the right to prosecute anyone, whoever it may be, if he has indulged in temporary marriage. This is an unwritten law that a wrong mentality has imposed on us. If we do not break this, we cannot struggle against corruption in society. Some gentlemen are constantly shouting slogans that we do not want women without the Islamic dress code, that we are not struggling against prostitution. This is not struggle, not at all. The struggle is that we must open the way—in a correct, orderly, and legal way—so that the natural desires of our young are satisfied. If, later, you see that this is leading to something bad, then you take that right away and suppress them. It is very difficult to judge someone who is going mad under the pressure of his sexual desires who looks at a woman or behaves in an incorrect way. Everyone, both men and women, understand these problems. We really must put away these wrong traditions, these imposed cultures, these suppressions that should not be in place. They have been imposed on the youth of our society. We must open up the ways. We all know that they exist. Do not ask for my initiative on these matters. Some people imagine that for a temporary marriage we have to find a turbaned man [mullah], but with this culture of ours, a man and a woman may be embarrassed to go to such a man. Or they think that the temporary marriage verse must be read in Arabic. None of this is necessary. The contract can be made in Persian. This is within Islamic law. They make a contract for themselves—they want to be together for a month or two. If there are children, they must be sorted out. I suppose to keep things in order, it is better to register this at an office. That would make it official and formal. [passage omitted]

In the coming week, we have the Palestinian issue. The Palestine congress is to be set up in Iran, and one of the most significant issues concerning the world of Islam and the world is going to be particularly addressed in our Arabic sermon because many of those addressed would be our Arab brothers and sisters. [passage omitted]

Last week, we began an important task regarding our country's social affairs which needs to be opened up, and I will elaborate on that. We also have another issue concerning human rights to which I should briefly refer. First, I will refer to the issue concerning human rights regarding the Palestinian problem.

We see serious contradictions in words and deeds of proclaimers of human rights and, in particular, the Western arrogance vis-a-vis the Palestinian issue. Whenever their interests are concerned, they raise and use as a weapon against any country issues such as human rights, opposing aggression, and other issues derived from international assemblies' regulations to serve their own motives.

When the issue concerns the Palestinians, they feel ashamed and hold their heads down. These days, we are witnessing the most horrific crimes and unacceptable actions in the occupied territories of Palestine. No one can accept or justify those actions, no matter how shameless and audacious he might be. A nation facing so much oppression and cruelty at its own home, the last of which is the opening of doors to the Soviet Zionists. [sentence as heard] Aircraft arrive regularly bringing the Zionists to exert pressure on the oppressed Muslims of Palestine, to drive them once again out of their remaining ruined houses. That indeed is the ugliest manifestation of the Zionists' crimes and those of their allies, the West, especially the Americans, who are particularly fanatical, zealous, and obsessed about that issue.

You look at two cases and see how different their actions are toward them. In the Iraqi case, within a few months they passed 11 resolutions, the last of which was issued yesterday authorizing military action. In the case of the Palestinians, a half-hearted resolution was issued a few months and a few weeks ago, and no one we see is after its implementation. I do not understand how shameless, impudent, and disrespectful they are. They think all their crimes can go unnoticed and no court or tribunal is there to deal with them. Even though apparently it is so, but definitely the hatred and enmity accumulates in the hearts of the justice-seeking people against those measures and will undoubtedly explode one day.

There is no argument about the fact that one should put an end to the Iraqi aggression. Iraq has truly committed a wrong action. We have condemned it. Iraq should get out, and ultimately it will be expelled, it will have to get out, and it has no other option. This is a separate issue. We are talking about the other side of the issue, that those who set claims to [supporting] human rights, justice, and international issues—why are they silent regarding the issue of Palestine? Why do they not act? Why do they not take a step forward? I will speak about these issues in detail in my Arabic sermon.

Regarding ourselves, we see that in the past few days all of a sudden, the hue and cry about the violation of human rights in Iran has been raised at the United Nations. This is a strange thing. It is a document for the disgrace of the Americans and the Europeans, as I will now say. All of a sudden, they have started this hue and cry. We noticed that it seemed like an extraordinary

issue. We asked what the issue was about. Two of the official figures from Eastern and Western Europe told us that the issue is about your stance regarding Iraq and Kuwait and the U.S. military onslaught [lashkar-keshi] in the region. As you [Iran] are acting in an independent fashion and are not prepared to support that dispatch of forces, you should be punished. But your punishment is this, that we will raise the issue of human rights against you.

You impudent people! Who do you wish to deceive with such actions that you commit? Who do you think you are faced with? You have done such things a thousand times with the Iranians. You have said such things any time you have desired and have said whatever you have desired to say. Do you think that with the situation that you bring about, the hue and cry that you raise, we will change our independent course?

From the start, the beginning of our peace move with Iraq coincided with Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. We made two separate files. We said that the file of our peace with Iraq is a separate one; because you [Americans or the West] were the ones who imposed the war on us. You yourselves incited the Iraqi aggression against Iran, supported it, encouraged it, and right to the end you were behind the aggressor. It is clear that you do not wish us to make peace. This file is a separate issue. It [the war] was imposed on Iraq and on us. We will follow this path, we will make peace with Iraq, we will regain our rights, we will follow it up to the end, and we see no reason why the two countries should always fight with one another.

The issue of Kuwait is different. Even when we go to Baghdad, when our prime minister goes to Baghdad, he tells the Iraqi president that these two files are quite separate. You [Iraq] should withdraw from Kuwait and UN Resolution 598 should also be implemented. This is our independent stance. Now even if you [the West] try to create a weapon [to use against Iran], and once again say the same kind of things that you have already repeated a hundred or a thousand times, this will make no difference.

I wish to say it to human society—our words will not reach the ears of all the people of the world—but at least our people should know that anytime they [America and the West] wish to receive some concessions from a country, they find such things and make an issue of it; either the issue of human rights or terrorism or such as which they always have up their sleeves. They have a number of such files in their filing cabinets. They take out one of them and say: come on, give it to the radios, and give it to others. These are no longer of any value. These are only good for themselves, to raise an issue and keep themselves busy.

I said these things, because I believe it is probable that during the coming days, foreign radios and foreign media may raise the issue. This would be due to this issue. This is the reason, and they have told us this very clearly. If need be, we will say who has told us that this is the reason for this issue. [passage omitted]

Speaks on Palestinian Issue

NC3011211790 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Massive crowds of Tehran inhabitants attended the Friday prayers at Tehran University and the surrounding streets. Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic, led the prayers.

In the first sermon, Shaykh Hashemi-Rafsanjani carried on with more observations concerning the suitability of Islam for managing all aspects of life in all times, as Islam is a clear and comprehensive religion that is free from confusion and complexity. [passage omitted]

In the second sermon, Shaykh Hashemi-Rafsanjani, temporary Friday imam for Tehran city, noted several national occasions that are due these days, including Mobilization Week; the birthday anniversary of Zaynab, daughter of the prince of believers 'Ali Ibn-Abu-Talib; Nurses' Day; Navy Day; and the martyrdom anniversary of the greatest of all ladies, the flower-like Fatimah, God's peace be with her. [passage omitted]

His Eminence Shaykh Hashemi-Rafsanjani dealt with the Palestinian issue twice. To those who understand Arabic, he remarked on the holding of a Palestinian conference in Tehran next week. A recording of these remarks, which he made in Arabic after his second sermon, will be aired to you, brothers and sisters. Shaykh Hashemi-Rafsanjani also commented on the human rights of the Palestinian people, the claims of Western arrogance with regards to human rights, and the clear contradiction between facts and claims. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Compare the resolutions passed against Iraq in the past few months and the feeble resolution passed some time ago about Palestine and which was not implemented at all.

There is no doubt that standing against Iraq's aggression is necessary. Iraq has to withdraw from Kuwait whether it wants to do that or not. This is clear. What we wish, however, to recall now how these forces that claim to advocate human rights become so mute about these rights when the Palestinian people are the victims.

Also some time ago a voice was heard in the United Nations denouncing the so-called human rights violations in Iran. This unveils the hideous role that the West and America are playing. When we demanded an explanation for this sudden and abnormal position, certain official sources that I will name if the need arises told us that this is a punishment for the Islamic Republic's stand on the Persian Gulf crisis, for the independent course it charted, and for its failure to support the Western military buildup in the region.

Who on earth do they think they are fooling with their lies, which they have trumpeted frequently in the past? Do they think that we are going to abandon our independence and adopt a biased policy because of the noise they are making?

Ever since the issue of peace with Iraq and the Gulf crisis began to unfold simultaneously, we said that the two issues are not linked. It is the arrogance who triggered the war against us, fanned its flames, and stood behind the aggressor. This is why it is opposed to our peace with Iraq.

We are going to press ahead with the peace process until we obtain all our rights. We have never seen a reason for fighting between the two countries. However, the issue of Kuwait is a different and unrelated matter. Our foreign minister has told the Iraqi president in Baghdad: You have to withdraw from Kuwait and implement Resolution 598. This is our unshifting and independent position. We are not going to change this position because of the uproar concerning the so-called human rights violations, regardless of how repeatedly the West may play this tune. Let all the peoples of the world know that the arrogance makes such weak pretexts in order to impose a certain status quo on some people or some country. [passage omitted]

Sermon on Palestinian Issue

NC3011214090 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Friday prayers sermon delivered in Arabic by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran on 30 November—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to God, and God's peace be on his messenger and his faithful believers. Daily clashes between the oppressed defenseless Palestinian people and the merciless ruthless Zionist forces have been raging throughout occupied Palestine for many years. Every day a number of Muslims who are demanding their rights are either martyred, injured, arrested, imprisoned, or deported from their homeland.

Houses are being demolished with the residents inside them and shops are closed down. It is indeed a historic bitter struggle that should be given the necessary attention for a number of points and reasons:

1. The Islamic nationalist steadfastness and struggle by the people of Palestine, who suffered and were subjected to pressures over scores of years, are expanding and increasing following long years of confrontation. This phenomenon only means faith and search for rights—the search for the rights of this Muslim people.

2. The intensity of the Zionists' cruelty and filthiness draws attention and demonstrates that they are becoming more stubborn every day in their oppression, their opposition to justice, and confrontation of the Palestinians' (?struggle) and steadfastness.

Their hearts have become like deaf rocks with absolutely no sympathy to all the acts of oppressions that are currently happening in Palestine.

3. The meager world support for the oppressed throughout history is absolutely unjustified. There is no state or government that is unaware of the extent of the Palestinian people's struggle for their rights and the extent of the Zionist's oppression and intransigence.

4. In the meantime, we see the imperialist world's support for the usurping oppressed Zionist entity, particularly the recent U.S. Administration's unlimited military and economic aid to the Zionists. This aid was sent on the pretext of the current circumstances in the region. The United States claims to be defending human rights and justice.

5. The defeatism and lukewarm attitute of the Arab and Islamic countries is strange. These states are not using their huge resources to deter the global arrogance against its ceaseless support for the racists, oppressors, and aggressors.

6. The Palestinian forces have missed golden historic opprtunities to rescue Palestine. These forces waited for many years for the outcome of negotiations and flexibility with the oppressive expansionist entity. They left the fedayeen to fight alone and extended their hands to the defeatist treasonous forces.

7. The hordes of Zionist immigrants coming from the Soviet Union to the land of Palestine is part of a well-planned program, and a joint plot hatched by the superpowers will only displace more Palestinians, who have suffered much from oppression and deprivation.

We hope this nation [word indistinct] and that an all-out action will begin to rescue cherished Palestine and holy Jerusalem, the first of the two kiblahs and the third holy place. May peace and God's mercy and benedictions be upon you.

Paper on 'Serious Deficiency' of Security Council

LD0112115890 Tehran IRNA in English 1011 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 1, IRNA—A morning daily Saturday commented on the latest resolution of the U.N. Security Council, Resolution 678 issued Thursday on deployment of force to remove Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

The English-language 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' pointed to this week's statements of Soviet U.N. Ambassador Yuliy Vorontsov who said: "The significance of this resolution (678) is that it is a last chance for Saddam Husayn to comply with the wishes of the world community. It gives him the chance to think very seriously about things."

But, the daily noted, Moscow was never [words indistinct] seriously about things because though now the Kremlin admits it had run amok, both then and now it wields veto powers in the Council.

"This brings us face to face with a serious deficiency in the Security Council and its veto mechanism" said the daily.

However, the daily stressed, one rising question is that with the Soviet Union reduced from "superpower monolith status to that of an international beggar...is she really in a position to exercise a responsible, impartial vote?"

On the other side of the equation us the U.S., the article added, noting, "the Security Council in this and past decades often appears as an auxiliary White House agency."

The paper concluded by saying that the problem with war is that the entire western coast of the Persian Gulf plus Iraq, could ultimately be reduced to an American colony. "How would the all too powerful Security Council deal with that?"

Foreign Ministry Urges Unity Against Zionists

LD0112171490 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] The Foreign Ministry of our country has issued a statement in which, commemorating 29 November, the International Day of Solidarity with the Muslim Palestinians, it has announced: The Jerusalem-occupying regime [Israel], by taking advantage of the specific developments and conditions prevailing over the region, has hatched new conspiracies against the Muslim Palestinian nation and the other nations in the region. To this end, it has perpetrated the massacre of innocent and oppressed Muslim Palestinians through the deployment of the most barbaric, suppressive, and crushing means.

Another part of the statement reads: The Zionist regime, in the wake of its numerous conspiracies aimed at crushing the just uprising of the Palestinian Muslims, is currently implementing its dastardly and dangerous plan of transferring Jews to occupied Palestine, which has and will cause serious problems for the Muslim Palestinians and other Muslims of the region. The Zionist regime continues its atrocities and extensive operations aimed at violating the sanctity of the sacred and religious sites, and their destruction—specifically the al-'Aqsa mosque, the first qiblah [direction toward which Muslims pray] of the Muslims. This is one of the resistance bases of the Muslim Palestinians and the point of inspiration for these resistance fighters.

The Foreign Ministry reiterated: The Islamic Republic of Iran once again declares its total support for the justice-seeking struggles of the Muslim Palestinian nation aimed at the liberation of Zionists. It calls on all Muslim countries and the Islamic freedom-seeking forces to mobilize their entire capabilities toward waging a practical, decisive, and comprehensive struggle against the usurper Zionist regime, in total solidarity, to neutralize their deceitful plans and initiatives targeted at deflecting the great movement of the Muslim Palestinian nation with total alacrity.

Tehran Radio Comments on U.S.-Iraqi Talks

LD0212133990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1059 GMT 2 Dec 90

["Political commentary:" "America's Offer of Talks With Iraq"]

[Text] Following Iraq's agreement in principle with the American President's proposal to hold negotiations, AFP reported that the Iraqi minister of state held talks with the U.S. charge d'affaires in Baghdad, but gave no details on the content of the discussions.

The recent change in the U.S. stance, called a step in the right direction by Bush, was announced after the 12th UN resolution was approved by a majority vote of the Security Council's foreign minister members following an extensive round of diplomatic moves by America. The American President also termed as a positive sign the Iraqi Government's delivery to the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad of a number of food items which the embassy personnel needed, but he added that the Iraqis are still very far from international laws.

What has been going on in the past four months since the beginning of the crisis and what the world community has concentrated on in the 12 resolutions boils down to the unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwaiti territory, maintenance of Kuwaiti sovereignty, and the return of the legitimate government [of Kuwait], which have been put forward in various forms. On the other hand, the Iraqi regime has called Kuwait Iraq's 19th province which has returned to its origin and so far has not accepted withdrawal from Kuwait.

The new situation, the dimensions of which gradually become clearer as the result of contacts between Washington and Baghdad, will mean—if it follows its natural course and if the wishes of the world community, which have been stressed in the second clause of the last Security Council resolution by way of the implementation of Resolution 660 and other relevant resolutions, are fulfillled—that Iraq should withdraw its forces from all of the Kuwaiti territory. In that case, it can be said that the explosive situation of the crisis will have been terminated and will have been concluded at the negotiating table. But if Iraq wants to enter negotiations with the U.S. side and show no flexibility in its position, then the world community will not accept any agreement that is not within the boundaries set out by the UN resolutions and no country, not even America, is allowed to act outside the contents of the UN resolution in connection with the Persian Gulf crisis.

It should also be noted that America so far has paid attention to this international concern and, through

making official statements in advance, has closed the doors to any kind of reconciliation over the Security Council resolutions.

Of course it is understandable that the Iraqi leaders are concerned about their future after the crisis. This is probably one of their undeclared objectives for entering the negotiations.

Commander on Need for 'Military Preparedness'

LD0212142890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] On the second day of the seminar assessing the consequences of the continued presence of alien troops in the Persian Gulf, the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps stressed the necessity for military preparedness on the part of the Islamic Republic of Iran and said: At this sensitive and historic juncture, we will once again defend our country and creed emphatically. According to an IRNA report, Mr. Reza'i, continuing his remarks at the seminar, pointed out that in the next 10 years the Persian Gulf zone will constitute the world's sole exporter of oil and that the West and the United States need this region's oil. He added: If the United States achieves victory in the Persian Gulf, it will maintain its position as a superpower for the next 30 years, and no doubt U.S. domination over Europe and Japan is conditional upon its victory in this region.

The seminar, which opened yesterday at the Armed Forces' Navy headquarters with speeches and debates on articles by political experts, university lecturers, and the commanders of the Navy, is continuing.

Tehran Says U.S. Starts 'Countdown' to War

LD0312012190 Tehran IRNA in English 2105 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 2, IRNA—In a surprise move after having pushed resolution 678 through the U.N. Security Council which permits the use of force for ousting the Iraqi Army from Kuwait, U.S. President George Bush has offered to negotiate with Iraq. The offer by Bush, however, is an anticlimax to Washington's turning of a deaf ear to similar offers for negotiation by Baghdad since the outbreak of the Persian Gulf crisis, for which Bush personally insisted on Iraq's pull-out from Kuwait as a pre-condition for talks.

Why is Washington now humbly offering to negotiate with Baghdad in the face of previous refusal to do so is debatable, especially because the United States is now in a position of power? [sentence as received] The fact is that the countdown for the eruption of a catastrophic war in the Persian Gulf started on Thursday. Although Washington now has yet more than 40 days to try its threatening option, it seems rather hesitant, and after all that sabre-rattling, wants to end the impasse with an apparent peaceful gesture so as to ensure its power.

In the present international system the public opinion is given some degree of credit in [words indistinct] international affairs, and the American public is now openly against the involvement of the United States in a military encounter in the Persian Gulf. On that basis Washington wants the American public—which is increasingly questioning Bush's tactlessness—to believe that the administration is trying to utilize every remaining opportunity to convince Iraq of the advisability of pulling out from Kuwait in a peaceful manner. At the same time, Bush also wants world people to believe that he who rushed 400 thousand odd troops to the region, has done absolutely everything for preventing a bloody encounter in the Persian Gulf.

Although since the outbreak of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, the White House had consistently reminded Saddam Husayn of the use of force against him, and although it lobbied considerably for pushing through the UN Security Council, Resolution 678, Bush has obviously blinked first, and seems to be extremely worried about the prospects of American casualties in an explosive region of the world and in a war with still unknown consequences to Washington. In the light of the situation, it seems Bush will negotiate for a peaceful pull-out of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, and it seems he will implore Saddam to do accordingly even though the [word indistinct] should opt to give circumstantial concessions to Baghdad.

It seems Bush will try a military encounter only after all devices by him for a peaceful settlement of the crisis has [words indistinct] which perhaps will not be the ultimate alternative remaining for Washington, especially the U.S. has all too [words indistinct]. Under the circumstances it seems Washington might have also thought of and planned alternative solutions in the Persian Gulf which might perhaps involve Iraq's agreement to pull out its forces from parts of Kuwait except for Rumaylah, Warbah, and the strategic Bubiyan Island, and which on the surface will be some sort of political victory for the United States. Such a situation also will offer Iraq some sort of at least a small "face saving" victory and justification for the invasion of Kuwait especially as a prestigious counterbalance against its having agreed to Iran's conditions for ending the war. If successful in such a scheme George Bush will eventually brag about having preventing a catastrophic [words indistinct].

War is catastrophic despite all that sabre-rattling by the parties involved, and for this reason, most obviously both Baghdad and Washington which greatly fear a military encounter in the Persian Gulf will do their best to capitalize on the remaining 44 days of respite for ending the crisis, not in the turbulent waters of the Persian Gulf but at the negotiation table.

Velayati Meets PFLP Secretary General

LD0212180190 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Mr. Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], arrived in

Tehran with other leaders of the PFLP to participate in the Islamic Palestine Conference. Today he met with Foreign Minister Velayati.

At the meeting, Mr. Jibril stressed the displeasure of the Zionist regime and those arrogant powers which back it at the Islamic Republic of Iran's initiative in staging the Islamic Palestine Conference. He also described the latest developments and situation in the occupied territories and the struggles of the Muslim people of Palestine.

Mr. Velayati then said: This conference, which is being staged on the anniversary of the intifadah, the uprising of the people of Palestine, was at the request of the brother Palestinians themselves, because the Islamic Republic of Iran is committed to the liberation of noble Jerusalem and beloved Palestine. One of our strategic aims is the destruction of the occupying Qods [Jerusalem] regime and the liberation of Palestine. This is why reactionary and compromising powers are not happy with the convening of this conference.

Tens of Palestinians, Lebanese, Jordanian, and Egyptian personalities arrived in Tehran last night from Damascus in order to take part in the Islamic Palestine conference. Bishop Khalil Abu-Nadir, bishop of the city of Beirut; Khalid al-Fahum, former speaker of the Palestine National Assembly; Colonel Abu-Musa, leader of al-Fatah intifadah; members of the leadership of Islamic Jihad of Palestine; several members of the leadership council of Lebanon's Hizballah, and Islamic Jihad of Palestine; and Abu-Mahir Yamani from the PFLP, are among the figures who have arrived in Tehran.

Pakistan

'Hundreds' of Bhutto Appointees Fired in 'Purge'

BK0212134890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1154 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 2 (AFP)—Hundreds of government employees appointed by the sacked administration of Benazir Bhutto have been fired in a purge ordered by the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Pakistani newspapers reported Sunday. The government had directed federal ministries and departments to dismiss ad-hoc employees given jobs "in violation of procedure" by the former premier, the reports said.

The English daily DAWN said the Telephone and Telegraph Department had sacked 1,500 employees including some 80 doctors and engineers. The state-run television had dismissed 12 employees, two of them news producers, the Urdu language daily NAWA-I-WAQT said.

About 30,000 were recruited through a special placement bureau during the government of Ms. Bhutto who was dismissed by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in August on charges of corruption and abuse of power. Mr. Sharif came to power following general elections in October.

Paper Criticizes UN Resolution Against Iraq

BK0212120090 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 2 Dec 90 p 8

[Editorial: "A Sad Day"]

[Text] It is a sad day for the international community that the global agency built up on the ravages of the World War I to help secure the fortresses of peace, has been successfully utilised by the self-assumed monopolist of the global order to acquire ostensible legitimacy for its aggressive designs, whose objectives and propriety remain far from clear even to the citizens of the United States of America. Shorn of all the diplomatic rigmarole that has accompanied the discussions on and the passage of the UN Security Council's Resolution on the possible use of force against Iraq for the supposed purpose of getting its occupation of Kuwait vacated and irrespective also of the otherwise democratic complexion of the American polity; Washington's success in getting the world body's approval for this latest draft represents in essence the dubious glory of a single individual at the height of his poltiical weakness: President George Bush. The laurels would of course, be privately shared by the formidable power interests at Washington, not least of them being the American war industry and the Zionist lobby, for whom no US President has ever served in such an impotently frontal role as the present incumbent of the White House.

But, is there a world beyond this coterie? The human race would hope so in full earnest. More than anything else the single most promising opening to sanity may in the event be provided by the lurking feeling that the bravado of Mr. Bush is propelled not as much by any possessive urge of national suicide as by the despicable American trait to be universally recognised as the personification of all the superlatives. That a war in the Gulf would no doubt achieve the US-Israel desire of annihilating the "Frankenstein's" in Mr. Saddam Husayn's Iraq which is of the former's own making but it is bound in the process to also inflict an unaffordable damage to American lives, to the Zionist entity as also to the Western protege structures in the region; is a realisation being voiced in creasingly louder by thinking individuals within the USA. There is therefore, the possibility that the breathing time till January 15, 1991, acquired by virtue of the Security Council "ultimatum" would be used to advance an alternative approach to war mongering. And that is exactly where the Arab and other Muslim countries of the extended region come in.

Mission Regrets Indian Harassment of Diplomats

BK3011155090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] In New Delhi, Indian officials in plainclothes again followed five Pakistani High Commission diplomats in cars and mistreated them yesterday and today,

which was obviously aimed at threatening and provoking the diplomats and interfering in the usual work of the high commission. A press release issued by the Pakistani High Commission says that as soon as the Pakistani diplomats left their office yesterday, eight Indians traveling in cars followed and tried to stop them and endangered them. The Indian officials stopped them and abused them. When the Pakistani diplomats arrived at their residences, the Indian officials, who were following them, threatened them and their family members and insulted them. Pakistani diplomats' telephones were cut off throughout last night.

The Pakistani High Commissioner immediately informed the Indian external affairs minister of these regrettable incidents last night. Today, the Indian External Affairs Ministry was not only given full details of the incidents, but they were also provided with the numbers of the cars which were used in following the diplomats. The Pakistan High Commission press release adds that it is extremely regrettable that the same unlawful and shameful act was repeated today as well. At 1900 Indian Standard Time, Indian officials in plainclothes encircled the houses of several Pakistani diplomats and used bad words against Pakistan and its diplomats.

Paper Criticizes Harassment

BK0212112490 Lahore THE NATION in English 2 Dec 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Diplomatic Norms—New Delhi Style"]

[Text] To ensure the personal safety of foreign diplomats is the responsibility of the country to which they are accredited and their deliberate harassment is universally acknowledged as an act of grave provocation. Even in times of tension when relations between two countries are strained and normal diplomatic channels inoperative, the diplomatic staff enjoys immunity in accordance with stablished canons of international law. Not that New Delhi is known for its respect for law or morality, but one would have hoped that their security agencies will not stoop that low to behave like gangsters with the members of the Pakistan High Commission and their families. Why have the Indians resorted to such mean tactics is anybody's guess, but if they are trying to disrupt the normal functioning of Pakistani diplomats, as our High Commission has alleged in its Press release, they are paving the way for another Indo-Pakistan confrontation.

In the wake of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] Summit ending on a note of goodwill and cordiality, and the Indian Prime Minister calling it "breaking of ice" between the two countries, it was not too much to expect some positive gestures by the "big brother" to follow in order to ease tension. And ironically Chandra Shekhar upon his return from Male had said that he had no reasons to doubt the Pakistani Prime Minister's peaceful intentions. On the contrary, however, New Delhi has decided to play its old and familiar tricks by resorting to crude high-handedness. Even it the purpose of harassing Pakistani diplomats is to send across the border signals of continuing "tough line" and the newly installed Indian Prime Minister is true to his reputation, a hostage of the establishment. New Delhi has chosen the wrong medium.

Army Chief Discusses Defense Capabilities

BK0212154890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] A three-day international seminar on defense, science, and technology began at Pakistan Ordnance Factories [POF] in Wah today. Inaugurating the seminar, Army Chief General Mirza Aslam Beg said Pakistan is a peace-loving country which believes in peace instead of aggression. He said a dynamic and effective political government has now assumed the reins of power in Pakistan and fully supports the armed forces' efforts to defend the country. He categorically stated that no aggressor dare cast an evil eye on Pakistan and that if anyone tries to launch an aggression, the aggressor will be taught a lesson with the full cooperation and support of the nation.

The army chief said Pakistan's defense policy is directed toward resisting and foiling aggression. He said that during the last three years new defense systems have been produced at the POF and other defense industries. He said these defense systems include missiles, projectiles, and other defense equipment; and the country's defense capabilities have increased in such a way that they would not be affected by a stoppage of foreign aid, as in the past. The POF and other industies engaged in manufacturing defense equipment have acquired a level of capability never seen before in the country's history.

Gen. Mirza Aslam Beg declared that Pakistan will welcome positive offers from friendly countries, but it will never compromise its national interests. Radio Pakistan's correspondent says that about 400 defense scientists and technologists from within and outside the country are attending the seminar.

PRC Delegation Meets President, Prime Minister

BK0212163790 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has said friendship with China is the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy and shall remain so. He was talking to a 12-member delegation from the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference headed by its first vice chairman, Mr. Wang Renzhong, which called on him in Islamabad today. The president said relations between China and Pakistan were deep rooted and had stood the test of time. He lauded the support and assistance of China to Pakistan in various sectors.

Reciprocating, the leader of the delegation, Mr. Wang Renzhong said friendship between China and Pakistan would grow from generation to generation. He said China also highly values its relations and political support Pakistan has extended to it on various issues. There was complete identity of views between the two leaders on all major regional and international issues, including the Gulf.

The Chinese delegation also called on the prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif. The leader of the delegation conveyed greetings of the Chinese leaders and people on his assumption of the office of prime minister. He extended to the prime minister an invitation to visit his country and assured of China's abiding support to Pakistan.

Meets Senate Chairman

BK3011150490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] The Chinese People's Political Consulative Conference delegation, which is now in Pakistan on an official visit, called on Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad in Islamabad today. On this occasion, the Senate chairman said Pakistan and China enjoy age-old friendly relations and their friendship has withstood every test of time.

Reciprocating the goodwill gesture, the Chinese delegation leader, Wang Renzhong, said that the Sino-Pakistani friendship is exemplary the world over and the Chinese people consider Pakistan as their second homeland.